

President's Commission on Student Centeredness
Minutes
November 15, 2006

Terry Biel reported on the Wikipedia-style red tape cutter which has been discussed in the Student Issues Resource Group (SIRG). The computer program would help students to find information on the web by simply typing a keyword into the program. A temporary, full-time employee would be needed to implement the program and according to Melissa Crabtree, the EIT department could maintain the program after implementation. Melissa Crabtree explained that there are several versions of this program at other schools including Stanford, OSU and CWRU. Melissa will forward the links to Michele Martinez to send to the group.

Alice Skeens explained that she has the Wireless recommendation which she will speak to Dr. Jacobs in a one-on-one meeting.

Carol Bresnahan explained that the first two student centeredness awards were distributed to Dr. Morris Jenkins (Criminal Justice) and Darlene Steves (College of Business). The awardees were surprised by the recognition. Carol also explained that she and Alice Skeens attended a recognition event at the University Medical Center in which hospital employees were recognized for exemplary service. Penny Poplin Gosetti and Kaye Patten Wallace also attended the recognition event. It was suggested that Carol's subcommittee find a way to acknowledge those people who were nominated for the award.

The Commission discussed how the course evaluations are used based on a student question about the use of evaluations. It was recommended that the Center for Teaching and Learning hold a seminar on how to use course evaluations as a formative tool rather than for summative purposes. Sue Ott Rowlands suggested that CTL work with PDDA to host such a seminar for associate deans and chairs. Carol Bresnahan commented that during the tenure process, course evaluations are taken into consideration. One suggestion was in order to be as transparent as possible, course evaluations could be made available to students on the UT website. Sue Ott Rowlands will research if there is a policy restricting the dissemination of that data. Susan Batten commented that teaching evaluations and course evaluations should be two separate tools as the information can be used differently. Terry Biel and Amy Steves agreed to research if there are any best practices regarding sharing course or teaching evaluations at other institutions.

Penny Poplin Gosetti reported that her subcommittee was looking at the parking at sporting events issue. One idea is for students to park at Scott Park campus and be shuttled to their classes to avoid parking problems. The parking subcommittee is looking into the cost and feasibility of this idea.

Penny Poplin Gosetti shared with a Commission an e-mail that Dr. Jacobs received from a student about the quality of food service in the residence halls. Dr. Jacobs suggested that the Commission join students for dinner on different occasions in an effort to deal

with this concern. Many Commission members stated that they would participate in such a meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 29, 2006.