

President's Commission on Student Centeredness
Minutes
November 1, 2006

Alice Skeens opened the meeting with the recognition roundtable in which members of the Commission provided an example of student centeredness in the past two weeks. It was decided that we will conduct this activity at every other meeting.

Joe Sawasky from Educational and Information Technology gave a presentation about the current state of wireless technology on UT campuses. Joe reported that the cost of making the entire university would be about 2.9 million dollars. A discussion ensued and members of the Commission agreed that having a wireless campus would be student centered. As a result, the Commission voted unanimously that the administration endorse the wireless initiative for Fall 2007. Sue Ott Rowlands will work with Joe Sawasky to draft the memorandum and she will seek input from the Commission. Alice Skeens will take the endorsement to Dr. Jacobs.

Colleen Strayer from the UT Bookstore reported on her work with textbook buyback. She provided details on the process for textbook buyback, the amount of money that students have been saved through the buyback and explained that a portion of the revenue from textbook sales is awarded to students through a program in the financial aid office. Colleen asked that the Commission endorse a motion to encourage faculty to get their book orders in on time. It was agreed that Colleen would send the faculty handbook regarding book orders to the Commission for distribution.

Kaye Patten Wallace reported what protocol will be used regarding solicited and unsolicited feedback or student centered issues. Michele Martinez will collect the feedback/issues, contact the appropriate individual/unit to respond and then bring the issue to the Commission for review.

Michele Martinez reported that two student centeredness awards will be awarded in the next two days and that it will be publicized in the UT News and on the website.

Gary Jankowski from Safety Services reported back to the Commission that the cost of lighting the flatlands would be \$77,000. After a lengthy discussion regarding the issue, members of the Commission stated that the lighting issue should be resolved. Gary stated that he would appreciate some endorsement by the Commission to help convince the administration to address this issue. The Commission voted on the issue and it passed with two abstentions.

Bernie Bopp reported that he has collected many of the course evaluations from various colleges and they are very diverse in nature. Bernie reported that back in 1995, he chaired a committee which looked at having a uniform course evaluation. Open forums were held for faculty input and the end result was a report which was drafted by the committee. The report, which was titled "Report of the University Teaching

Evaluation Committee” and dated June 1995, was reviewed by the administration, faculty senate and the board of trustees. While the report was accepted, it was never approved. It was agreed that Bernie will share the report with the Commission.

Martin Abraham reported that his workgroup has met and have been looking at individual cases of students who are not getting paid. Martin was asked how many students are not getting paid on paydays. Martin will look into the numbers.

Matt Lockwood passed out the communication workgroup plan and we will discuss the workgroup’s progress at the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, 2006 in 2591 SU.