

CECS College Council Meeting

Minutes – 03/01/2024

11AM Start

Present: Immanuel Edinbarough, Maysam Pournik, Erik Enriquez, Thang Pham, Domingo Molina, Nantakan Wongkasem, Jae Son, Majid Hosseini, Alley Butler

1. Differences in evaluations and criteria among departments
 - a. Committee requested dean's input on what steps committee can take for this task
 - b. All criteria from departments were collected for committee review, and members are reviewing for any areas of concern
 - c. Provost is requesting evaluations to include more qualitative measures rather than quantitative
2. Merit selection guidelines
 - a. Merit and Workload policy are connected to evaluations in departments, so all 3 tasks are connected.
 - b. Committee is discussing the extent to which merit should depend on evaluation and "exceeds expectations"
 - c. It is not clear how often merit raise is available
3. Quality of teaching with Changing Times
 - a. Generative AI has changed teaching a lot
 - b. Educators can leverage gen AI to improve course materials and variety. They should learn the technology
 - c. Either way, teaching approach must change now that gen AI is widely accessible
 - d. Inclusion of widely available online courses to help students prepare as compliments to our coursework can help students prepare a lot
 - e. The committee has gathered ~10 overall topics to explore in this task, and will explore as many as we can
 - f. How does this affect merit and workload?
 - g. What if TA's are teaching these courses – how will they also be trained to deliver courses at this higher standard as we improve?
 - h. Committee will consider teaching improvements, particularly at the introductory courses, as the university grows toward R1 status
4. Long-term Research Contributions
 - a. Some long-term contributions such as books which take a long time, how is credit towards Merit assigned?
 - b. By providing more credit clearly to instructors, we may promote instructors to publish these types of works
 - c. Committee is aiming to include this explicitly in Merit evaluation documentation
 - d. Networking and building program activities can also be long-term efforts that do not have explicit recognition in the merit and evaluation guidelines

5. Faculty Travel Support
 - a. Committee with create guidelines for travel support for faculty that must travel for their regular duties in the department
 - b. Currently there are 2 sources of ~\$800 each from university and department, which may be insufficient even for national travel
6. Conflict between center and department needs
 - a. Plan is to meet with department heads and research centers, interview to write a report

Meeting adjourns at 12PM