CECS College Council Meeting
Minutes – 03/01/2024

11AM Start

Present: Immanuel Edinborough, 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