Teaching & Learning Committee minutes

Cameron Exchange, Room 101c
November 22nd, 2013
Chairperson: Margot Gregory
Secretary: Francisco Patiño
Present: Stephanie Boss, Jeff Larson, Dr. Tony Wohlers, Kyle Moore, Lisa Restivo, and Dr. Terry R. Conley.
Absent: Dr. Syed Ahmed, Joel Barnaby, Dr. Carolyn Kinslow, Rose M. Welch, Nikki Kirk, Christianah Olubajo.

New secretary

Chair Margot Gregory calls the session to order. Due to the absence of Rose M. Welch, she calls for volunteers to serve as secretary. Francisco Patiño volunteers. Jeff Larson seconds the motion. 9 votes out of 9 in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

Margot Gregory presents the minutes from the October meeting for approval. Lisa Restivo notes that she has been misidentified as X. Margot Gregory moves to rename her in the minutes. Kyle Moore seconds. 9 votes out of 9 in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

First proposal

Dr. Thomas Labé presented his proposal for a trip to Hong Kong to deliver two presentations on his project for PowerPoint alternatives. He will explain how to use websites as course pages, all password protected for course students, along with the creation of an open source textbook to go along with the website. On the flipside, he will bring back innovative technology ideas that Cameron can use as well as represent our campus in an international forum.

Francisco Patiño asked if the book and website will be truly open source, or if he would limit access. Professor Labé said that was a legal issue to be determined down the road, but tentatively yes. Francisco Patiño mentioned he has programs to auto update, as well as linking to sources rather than previewing them in the website or eBook. Tony Wohlers mentioned that he can ask IT for their tools. Francisco Patiño asked if he would retain ownership of the content he puts online. Tony Wohlers advised Professor Labé to talk to Josh Lehman. Dr. Conley mentioned that the university does not have ownership over publications. Professor Labé started the project to cut costs for students; he will wait to near completion before looking into the legal issues.

Dr. Conley asked if the request is fundamentally for the travel expenses. Professor Labé mentioned he got $600 from music for travel expenses.

Second proposal

Dr. Kirsten Underwood came to present her Duo Siqueira Lima Concert proposal. She explained the current developments and innovations from Brazilian Flamenco performers, merging Spanish Flamenco with modern pop styles in Brazil, and the group's innovative use of two people to play one guitar. Her proposal requests funding for the tickets and van. No food, the students will buy their own dinner.

Francisco Patiño asked if they can get music scores for the students. Dr. Underwood said she will try to get them, and will also ask for backstage access for students to speak with the performers.

Third proposal

Prof. Stephanie Boss and Andra Hunt presented their proposal for the Polar H7 Heart Rate Sensors and Exercise Intensity. It includes 6 heart rate watches. Andra Hunt explained they have
multiple levels of instruction they can be used in. It scales well for non-majors and helps demonstrate very tangibly the academic material for majors. It is a great hands on for the science based physiology of exercise course. Stephanie added that there is a website with apps and tracking tools useful for curriculum and core classes.

Dr. Conley asked how many students are going to be impacted. Andra Hunt said 27 in the Fall then 27 in the Spring. Dr. Conley asked if they have a lab. Stephanie Boos said they have a half lab, half classroom.

Dr. Conley asked about the life expectancy of the watches. Stephanie Boss answered it was 6 months of battery life plus it includes a year’s supply of replacement batteries. It also costs $250 for the software license per year. It also gives tech support. The watches would be ideal for their Technology and Exercise class and Group Exercise classes.

Dr. Conley suggested they could get student tech fee to support their project. He also asked how they will you maintain security over the equipment. Stephanie Boss mentioned they already have a cabinet with numbers for the equipment and logs.

Tony Wohlers asked if there was any news on its effectiveness from other universities. Stephanie Boss mentioned they were too new, other universities are still using the previous watches.

Dr. Conley mentioned that since they will use it to support research they should get in contact with the Institutional Research Board. Stephanie Boss mentioned they are already pushing for support from them, especially since the expenses of maintaining equipment has forced them to strain to cover wear and tear.

**Discussion and voting**

Margot Gregory suggested we start with Professor Labé.

Tony Wohlers informed the committee that we have a total of $23,198. If we fund all of the proposals we will have $6,800.

Dr. Conley was unclear about what the committee funds. The charter’s statement goes from broad support of innovation to a very narrow "aimed at use of emerging tech". He pointed out it said we don't cover travel, so the criteria is vague.

Kyle Moore mentioned that regarding travel, the committee had sent Professor Marie-Ginette Baillargeon to France to gather pop culture materials for her class, with a dual purpose since she was also presenting and got some money from her dept. The emphasis wasn’t on her travelling, but on the materials she would bring back and the presentation.

Dr. Conley Noted the emphasis on technology in our committee description may mislead applicants. Tony Wohlers asked Dr. Conley if he would replace, remove or refine what’s there. Dr. Conley said we should refine our description of what we fund. Stephanie Boss agreed to clarify the content. Tony Wohlers noted that all proposals implicitly satisfy criteria, even if they don't always do so explicit, which is Dr. Conley’s main concern; technology and classroom impact should be there.

Dr. Conley Noted that Dr. Kirsten Underwood’s proposal to send students to Dallas seemed much like the one denied last meeting. Tony Wohlers argued that this time she clearly linked it to a class and offered facilitation of the impact.

Tony Wohlers asked the committee members to help change phrasing, calling for concrete suggestions.

Margot Gregory noted that Nandekar’s proposal was denied because it was very expensive, ill defined, and could have been done online. With Kristen’s there was a museum trip with no real value. These are different from her current proposal.
Stephanie Boss brought up how the phrase "ordinarily travel funds won’t be given" is misleading.

Margot Gregory considered that what Professor Labé wants has tremendous value and so travel is justified. Tony Wohlers suggested that we look at the proposals and revisit the issue of phrasing in the Spring. Stephanie Boss motions to that effect. Dr. Conley seconds. All in favor. It passes.

Margot Gregory put Professor Labé’s proposal to a vote. Margot Gregory read emails from the absent members: Nikki Kirk and Syed Ahmed were in favor. Rose M. Welch abstains. Of those present all were in favor, proposal approved.

Margot Gregory brought up Professor Underwood’s proposal for discussion.

Jeff Larson noted it is very similar to last one. Tony Wohlers also noted it’s different in that it has a very innovative use of the guitar, along with a talk with the performers.

Kyle Moore mentioned that if they talk with performers, it has more value. Dr. Conley said the proposal needs the interaction, not just passive observing. Margot Gregory motioned to approve the proposal if there is concrete confirmation of a private meeting between the performers and students.

Stephanie Boss asked if this should even be a stipulation. Kyle Moore said it would be fine, since the performance is in February it would allow Professor Underwood time to arrange it.

Margot Gregory called for a vote. Margot Gregory read emails from the absent members: Nikki Kirk is against the proposal, Syed Ahmed is in favor, and Rose M. Welch abstains. Of those present all were in favor, proposal approved.

Lastly, Margot Gregory called for a vote on Andra Hunt’s and Stephanie Boss’ proposal. Margot Gregory read emails from the absent members: Nikki Kirk and Syed Ahmed were in favor, Rose M. Welch abstains. Of those present all were in favor, proposal approved.

Tony Wohlers said Margot Gregory will call a new meeting in the Spring and we’d hear proposals for refining the committee’s description.

Meeting adjourned.