Committee on Teaching and Learning
March 23, 2020
Online Zoom Meeting Connectivity

https://smccd.zoom.us/j/125370600
Meeting ID: 125-370-600

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1. Agenda approved

2. Minutes 10/21, 11/25, 1/27 approved without amendment.

3. Check in

Challenges:

- Mostly things are slower: takes an hour, hour-and-a-half to get hold of professors etc.
- Unreliable internet access – college will need to figure something out. Students don't always have computers (e.g. beginning ESL classes) and some don't have good broadband.
- Students often need support too. Some students need a lot of help to get into Canvas. Some haven't used course management systems much. And lots have kids at home, as do we. Student Union has a survey going out to students to find out their stressors (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdoUrpiFM234pMIPghFRb1cztrGyiMbRUuvz0R-NXdxiPBm4A/viewform?usp=pp_url)
- Hands-on classes / labs. Lecture classes not that difficult to put online, but others (e.g. TV Studio Production) or with hands-on labs are more challenging. Online resources often miss hands-on component. Still figuring out what to do. Especially Cosmetology which has to deal with state board licensing – the hands-on element is a huge challenge.
- International students moving home – how will they access the course? Also, some students may lose financial support if programs are cancelled.
- Making up student hours for time missed – when will this happen?
- Living with kids at home / parents: working while juggling family obligations.
- Uncertainty: Will we come back? Should we postpone lab assessment till we're back, or do we assume that we won't come back (SFSU, Contra Costa have already announced.)

- What's working: Zoom! Counselors using it to meet students to provide support & encouragement – also math tutoring. Teaching is coming together. Many of us had never used it – still getting used to it but it seems to be working.

What we're doing:

- PRIE is reprioritizing: now working on a survey to get information about reliable access to the internet – collaborating with other colleges and District.
- Resources: Google Teach
- Suggestion: We should ask our students what resources are needed to help them get by.
- Thought: We're learning new tools – we'll never teach the same way again. We're thinking about teaching differently.

What's keeping us together:

- Virtual happy hours, games (recommendation from Rachel: Jackbox - https://jackboxgames.com/), walking the dog.

4. Update on Professional Development

March 27th:

- Faculty have too much going on right now.
- Perhaps we could offer more support? Just make some information available? Using Gradebook? 50% of CSM faculty were not on Canvas before this started – going online is a huge learning curve for them. Students have had some online exposure – a bit prepared, and they have expectation – it's we who need to learn. Workshops etc. should be ongoing.

August:

Topics:

- How can we make PD more accessible, especially to adjuncts? We need to record things, have them Zoom-accessible – an equity issue. Things need to be available for folks who can't make it. Prioritizing trainings in online teaching.
- Guest speaker Gender Spectrum were going to do a training with follow-up sessions; District Equity Committee funds it – it has to be for a District audience.
- More infrastructure: cameras, bandwidth, etc.

Thoughts & themes for next year:

- Flexibility. It's an equity issue. And COVID may well not go away this semester – it may become a seasonal thing, something that requires us to be more flexible with students who maybe have to miss two weeks of class here and there.
- How do we use online tools to maximize inclusiveness?
- Discussion forums in fall: We can use this as a chance to reflect on our teaching – how do we use classroom time? Why do we have deadlines? What have we learned about teaching and learning from our online experience? Interdisciplinary forums would be great.

5. Assessment

Institutional assessment

- Assessment plans 2019-2020: These should be put on hold till fall – we want to align with Program Review, and maybe should move to a biennial assessment plan. Besides, faculty have too much going on and may not be able to complete assessment plans, which frequently require student surveys – students don't have the time either.
- In Fall, we should take the opportunity the COVID episode has afforded us to think deeply about teaching and learning. How are we using classroom time? What turns out to be unnecessary? What is invaluable? Students should be in on this too – what did they miss about not being in class? What was a welcome change? Many new assessment plans may emerge from this. We should discuss what we'd like to ask ourselves and students.

Assessing student learning in our courses

- How do we gauge student work online? This is part of the overall training in how to teach online.
- Labs present a particular problem: how to gauge hands-on work? Some faculty figure we'll probably be back after Spring Break – but we may well not be, so a solution should be found.
- Some places are moving to pass/no pass grading (Contra Costa has). But doesn't this affect transferability? UCs don't like courses where students don't get letter grades. (Though apparently they are ready to be flexible.)
- Assessment practices may well end up emphasizing the equity gap – ie, some households have computers for everyone and plenty of privacy and books; some don't.
- Also: What are others doing? The K-12 districts sent kids home with a Chromebook & a hot-spot for those with no wifi; also providing school meals. Can we use this sort of thing as a model?

6. Topics for April

College of San Mateo

Committee on Teaching and Learning

Monday, March 23, 2020, 2:00-4:00

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AGENDA

1. Approve agenda

2. Approve minutes from

3. Check-ins (both personal, professional, and divisional)

4. Update and discuss Professional Development (obviously it's been happening at an unprecedented rate)

    a. March 5 follow up materials

    b. Update: March 27 flex day cancelled

    c. Report/Reflect out on successes, challenges, and support needed now

    d. Thoughts on themes for next year?

5. Discuss Assessment

    a. Update on Assessment plan

    b. In light of the "new normal"?

6. Next steps

    a. Topics for April?

        i. Check ins

        ii. Discuss student survey

        iii. Discuss proposals for August

iv.   Discuss what an Assessment related forum could look like?

Other agenda items for April?

- Check-ins
- Update on the survey going out to students (Candela will update) – COVID-19 Student Stressors. If we can get our students to fill it out that would be great. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdoUrpiFM234pMIPghFRb1cztrGyiMbRUuvz0R-NXdxiPBm4A/viewform?usp=pp_url
- Liz will prepare an email for faculty about August
- Think about assessment forums in August.