

SOC Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2010 – 3:00-4:30 p.m., AS196

In Attendance: Derek Borman (Chair), Peter Brown, Diane Bullen, Tim Florschuetz, Dave Harris, Sam Martinez, Betty Parisek, Ly Tran-Nguyen, Matt Ashcraft (ORP), Dennis Mitchell (ORP).

SOC membership: Tim asked the committee if the administration can send "threatening" emails for issues like requiring faculty to attend graduation, why couldn't they do the same for attending a certain committee. Peter commented that it seems like the same 20 people serve on all the committees; Matt replied that committee participation could be a systemic issue and not a SOC issue. Derek said that the message from the administration doesn't need to be a threat so much as encouragement. He hopes that the new committee sign-up sheets will reflect his recruiting efforts at DCA meetings.

Sam asked when the next NCA visit would be and commented that accreditation initiated SOC. He said the next NCA visit may be a tool to use to market SOC. Tim said that of all the standing committees at MCC, SOC is one of the only ones to focus on teaching and learning, so it should have representative from every dept.

Matt added that as a committee, SOC can make a recommendation to the Faculty Senate, and the senate can recommend to the administration that a joint notice should be sent to faculty so it doesn't come solely from the administration. Ly commented that it was important to include teaching and learning aspect of SOC in the recommendation and letter to faculty. Derek said he will draft a letter tomorrow to the faculty senate and VPAA Mabry and will email the draft to the committee. The committee brainstormed important points for Derek to include in the letter to the administration and faculty senate.

SOC learning focus: The committee discussed developing a learning focus for next academic year. The administration would champion this focus and really encourage faculty to find ways to integrate the focus into their curricula for the year. The arts and humanities outcome was discussed as the primary option for the first learning focus. Matt commented that the committee would need to develop ways to maintain the learning focus throughout the year; touch points that don't necessarily need to be a string of large events. Peter brought up the idea of having cross-disciplinary collaboration, such as having art faculty educate science faculty about how science and art can fit together. Betty provided an example of how the nursing program ties in arts and humanities by having students create mandalas.

Future meetings: Sept. 9, Oct. 14, Nov. 4, Dec. 9: CTL Conference Room, 3:00-4:30 p.m.