UT System Academy of Distinguished Teachers
August Meeting
9:00am-1:00pm
August 14, 2019
UT System Building

MINUTES


9:01: meeting begins

9:01-9:04: Beth: welcome, overview of agenda

9:04 – 9:40: Discussion: “How would you compare your teaching today to the first time you became a teacher in that first classroom?”

9:40: recognition of Weston Rose’s effort and work for the ADT

9:41-10:04: President’s Report of Accomplishments discussed. Highlights:

- Publications: eLOB (180 downloads), LOBII (student input, campus presidents’ contributions; should be published April 2020), LOBlog blogging initiative (discussion regarding frequency of blog)
- Membership: ongoing discussion on criteria, numbers; emeritus membership instituted
- Events: Student Success Summit – 2 ADT were on organizing committee & other ADTs participated, event unlikely to happen this year because of changing system administration; Induction – change of venue; ROTA Workshop
- Other Activities/Projects: assessment of teaching repository – idea and commitment, will organize in upcoming year; ADT meetings: 3 meetings per year - campus visits at UTSA and UTEP in Februaries, Austin System building meetings two other times each year; Executive Board meet via conference calls
- Challenges for the ADT: focus, follow through, sustainability (especially in terms of funding & projected growth)

10:04-10:18: break

10:18 – 10:58: Short Reports

- Treasurer’s Report: Neil Gray: acknowledgement of essential support of Weston Rose; see document for summary. With remaining funds, possible purchase of more LOB but
question of storage. Several ADT said their campuses would take extra copies. Beth asked the requests to go to Weston. Neil said might be tight because of end of fiscal year. Discussion: should we give copies to new ROTA members? Would it be useful? Likely that the reserve we have this year is because multiple ADT members did not request travel reimbursement due to concerns about funding.

- Publications, Art Brownlow: see above update from President’s Report. Then, discussion regarding epub archiving for free digital access. Google? Gutenberg? Cathy may have a contact at UT Tyler. Alex suggested Inside Higher Ed. Kevin S wondered if we could also consider Insider Higher Ed for LOBlog. Potential issue: Inside Higher Ed can link but not house? Alex: should be on their own server. Karen: Bonnie Stachoviak (podcast Teaching in Higher Ed) may be another possibility.

- LOB2, Beth Brunk-Chavez: see above update from President’s Report. Also, plan on talking distribution: to student authors - make it a small event on our campuses to recognize their contributions, maybe with our campus ROTA organizations? To new faculty at our institutions?

- Other Reports:
  - Events, Pat: survey for new ROTAs to structure our ROTA forum this afternoon:
    - Questions:
      - Please identify three elements that you consider defining features of your success as a teacher? How are these apparent in your teaching?
      - What do you consider the greatest impediments to excellent teaching and effective learning on your campus?
      - What structural changes (curriculum, schedule, course content and activities, etc.) would most improve the learning experiences of undergraduates at your institution?
      - What university-wide initiatives are currently underway at your institution (e.g., improving peer observation systems, improving student evaluations of teaching ) that are intended to enhance the quality of teaching and/or the effectiveness of student learning?
      - Overall, how would you rate the effectiveness of efforts to improve teaching and learning on your campus?
      - Please add further comments you believe may contribute to our improving the quality of undergraduate education in the UT System.
    - Themes
      - A strong sense of responsibility for student success: caring, compassion, respect, on a personal level, individual learning needs, recognize diverse backgrounds, first generation student
needs, least likely to success, know your audience, connected – aware of changes in demeanor

- Caring, but balanced with clear expectations and maintaining rigor/accountability
- Faculty overstretched; competing responsibilities; inflexible structures; program ‘whack a mole’
- Confusing disconnect as to what “college success” looks like (from faculty, student, parent, system perspectives)

- ADT members will facilitate each table. Our goal: what are ideas and successful initiatives that work that we can share across UT System? How can all ROTAs influence teaching at our own institutions – discussing how to figure out where our particular spheres of influence are?
- Bob Duke: also think about our collective influence, as a body (ROTA at a campus, ROTA across campuses, as ADT)

10:58 – 11:00: Beth: recognition of Executive Board and Committee Chairs

11:00 – 11:03: Catherine: recognition and acknowledgement of Beth Brunk-Chavez’s presidency


11:05-11:12: break

11:12 – 12:00: reconvene with new President, Catherine Ross

- Catherine presents New Directions document
  - June meeting with Exec Board

  - Topics
    - Guiding questions: what needs to be done on our campuses and in the UT System for teaching and learning? What are we capable of doing, able to do? Don’t we need a long-term strategic plan? How can we sustain our efforts?
    - Other questions for discussion today: how can we extend our reach? Can we demonstrate our impact and take it to scale? What can we do with our current resources? Time, funding, support
    - Challenge from UTS AVC Rebecca Karoff: “UT System needs a shared definition of what quality teaching and learning are and look like in practice” short term and deliverable, chancellor and others at UTS would appreciate this, it could guide or underpin longer-term strategic planning and sustainable growth

- Talking Points
• Continue ROTA workshop
• We are the right group to define quality teaching and learning for the systems
• Partner with local teaching centers
• Cross-system teaching circles
• Build a rich, useful online portal for UTS faculty
• Use Feb meeting as mini-teaching conference, will pilot in 2020 at UT Tyler perhaps
• Reach out to middle school students and parents, also high school freshmen and parents
• Semester ROTA teacher exchange similar to Fulbright but with teaching. Create virtual network during fellowship to reflect, and each ROTA group at each participating institution could structure a series of teaching talks or for a
• Multi-campus virtual forum: UTS ADT fellows, local academies, new and previous ROTA winners, new faculty from each campus, grad students, nontenure track faculty, teaching centers
• Fund-raising, demonstrate our impact at UTSA, educational nonprofits, Regents
• Create a high quality ACUE-like 4 or 5 module interactive, online tutorial for all newly hired faculty. Professional produced and curated – get UTS to pay for this, take it to all new faculty (over 1,000 new each year). GOAL: to start all new faculty thinking about their teaching as well as their research
  o Will these tutorials accomplish our goal? It will be convenient and available across the entire system
  o Who will view them? all new T/TT, PT and FT NTT, also grad students
  o Incentives: make it part of the contract, do it in the summer. Credential it – and be sure it is valued in the 3rd year and T&P process. Ditto for our mini-conferences and/or write for our blog, add to CVs
  o How will this be different than all the many things out there: only ADT in the US, we have the UT brand and can build on it, we will insist on very high production value – partner with Course Hero? Or go with a company like Six Red Marbles in Austin?
  o Go national – Course Hero is interested in working with us and hosting it on their portal.
  o Could be a fund-raiser
Brief discussion by ADT: Pat: target grad students, too? Mary MC: could do modules that can build out. Diana, Jill & Karen: could be very helpful for PT NTT who typically do not get access to teacher training on campuses. Mary: Course Hero & like need content. We will more negotiating ability because of this, should we go that route. Brent: could ID and sort modules by our ADT individual expertise. Pat: Would CHero or similar underwrite the cost of production? Catherine: we think so. Karen: we need to think carefully about we have to offer that is different than what is already out there. Also need to think of what UTS will support. Pat: whatever we decide, should be uniform production. How UTS will react is very important, need to keep it front and center whole time. Brent: let’s vote. Bob: our current topics are not novel – per Karen, what can we offer that is unique, including delivery medium? What if we created a space online for peer to peer observation where a faculty member voluntarily uploads 20 min of video of teaching and ROTA member peer evaluates?

Brief overview of Course Hero by Catherine. Add’l benefits: networks of communication similar to a Research Gate for teaching.

Votes on discussion points and action items:

- ROTA workshop: 17 in favor – leads: Events Chairs
- Define quality teaching & learning for UTS: 17 in favor. Leads: John and Bob Duke.
- Online portal, online resources, virtual forum: unanimous. Lead: Art Brownlow, Giulio Francia, and Diana Dominguez.
- Outreach: not our mission
- Teaching exchange for semester – the Fulbright idea: 12. (Maybe start with a shorter term one to start?). Lead: Pat Davis, Jill Fleuriet, Diana Dominguez.
- Pursue development/discussion of online training: unanimous. Lead: Brent, Mary and Cathy.
- Fund-raising: need more discussion on where to go before voting but all agree we should deal with it

Action item: leads will update by Sept 15.

12:00-12:32: lunch

12:32 – 1:03: ADT discussion on these topics:

- Membership: the associate status, representations of campuses & other categories.
Associate status: how to differentiate between good reason for absence (out of country for a year) versus sustained nonparticipation, do we need associate status for any functional reason, what if associate status just means no funding for meeting attendance

Committee membership

- Publications: Kevin S, Brent, Giulio, Art, Mary
- Events: Kevin C, Karen, Robert P, Alex, Pat
- Membership: Neil, John, Diana
- Officers: floaters
- Catherine will call absentee members to see if want to be on a committee

- February meeting: Thursday 2pm – Friday pm (considering that Tyler requires connecting flight from Dallas)
- Possible monthly executive board meetings, Zoom or similar
UT System Academy of Distinguished Teachers
Winter Business Meeting
8:30am-2:30pm
February 7, 2020
UT Tyler, Soules College of Business, Room 321

MINUTES


8:30: Assemble for welcome and breakfast tacos, coffee, and fruit in Soules 321.

Call to order at ?

9:00 to noon: Membership Committee, discussion/voting on 2019-2020 UTS ADT nominees
John Hadjimarcou and Susan Doty

• Discussion points:
  o Continued conversation from last year re: representation on ADT across faculty titles, disciplines, backgrounds, campuses
    ▪ Codify or mandate? What would that look like?
    ▪ When do we make these changes?
    ▪ How do we communicate them? ADT involvement in campus selection? Criteria in ranking match criteria on website?
  o Widen applicant pool from only ROTAs? Bylaws do not require ROTA. Subcommittee to revise: John Hadjimarcou, Susan Doty, Karen Huxtable-Davis, Kevin Schug, Jill Fleuriet, Diana Dominguez, Pat Davis
  o Candidate assessment
• Final selection: 4 (Ceberio, Charlton, Murphy, Seepersad)
  o Motion to accept 4 candidates (Davis)
  o Seconded (Francia)
  o Vote: unanimous in favor

• Suggested improvements:
  o Next year call is only for NTT to increase representation. If it works, consider a schedule of staggering
    ▪ Include the recommended language for UTS’s call for ADT that comes from Dr Leslie’s position
  o Ask each campus’s nominating committee to include an ADT member
ADT members are notified early about the call for nominations in order to increase dissemination across campus and maximize time from preparation

- Misc discussion that followed
  - Connecting with UTS, especially Leslie’s position, in order to partner to help support conference at rotating winter business meeting
    - Include a report on the winter conference

**Noon:** Lunch (Piada Italian Street Food), debriefing on and discussion of the UTS ADT Winter Conference and the January 2020 Lilly Conference. Pat Davis, Jill Fleuriet, Cathy Ross

**Noon-1:35** Future Planning:
- Shall we make the Winter Conference a continuing event? Cathy Ross and Karen Huxtable-Jester
  - Everyone said yes.
  - Who next? UTRGV very interested.
  - Major cost? Food
  - Major savings? Free keynote speaker!
  - Challenges? Technology
  - Other possibilities?
    - Incorporate more local ROTA/ADT in programming
    - Bring in more conversation during opening panel? Have different kinds of approaches (workshop vs presentation) in sessions?
    - Using the Lilly Conference as a dry run was great and was a different audience
- Teaching Exchange: Jill Fleuriet
  Possible Topics for Exchange with ADT members interested in parens
  - NTT advancement, support, training (Catherine, Karen)
  - CTL/ADT structure, best practices (Diana)
    - Getting an ADT going (Diana)
    - Faculty Orientation re teaching (Diana)
    - Faculty Development re teaching (Diana)
  - Ed Tech (Art)
  - How teaching can be built into T&P (Jill)
  - Project or lab-based curriculum (Kevin S)
  - P-20 outreach & funding (Susan)
  - Peer observation (developing & improving robust, authentic processes) (Pat,
• OER & textbook development (Kevin S.)
• Faculty roles in student orientations (Susan, Diana)
• First Year Experience (maybe Brent, Jill)

ADT members who might be interested in being pilot ambassadors:
• Catherine
• Jill
• Diana
• Giulio
• Pat
• Art

Other Notes: Big 12 Faculty Exchange program (1-2 weeks) as a possible model: [https://www.provost.iastate.edu/faculty-and-staff-resources/development/big-12](https://www.provost.iastate.edu/faculty-and-staff-resources/development/big-12) and [https://gradschool.utexas.edu/faculty/big-xii-faculty-fellowships](https://gradschool.utexas.edu/faculty/big-xii-faculty-fellowships)

Tyler/Provost comments: perhaps Provosts can advocate for UTS funding. Ideal for him would be semester but understands personal and departmental potential challenges.

1:35-1:50ish  Treasurer’s Report and update on Publications
Pat Davis, Art Brownlow
• Reviewed budget spreadsheet (see end of minutes). Existing budget and projection of expenses are well managed. Our funds are swept in August.
• Discussion points:
  • Induction ceremony: has the cost cutting been worth the perceived prestige associated with evening event & other attendees?
  • Number of new adt members per year: last year, we went to 2 for cost savings. We went to 4 this year. Need to think through costs.
  • We need to keep front and center how we use our money – and what we might need in the future, in order to promote teaching excellence across the system

1:50ish-2:30  Future Planning
• April Meeting. Karen Huxtable-Jester: April 3
  o Keep a lunch but make it even better
  o Incorporating video testimonials celebrating ADT members. Art was voluntold as lead.
  o Discussion points
• Could we combine the ADT with the ROTA ceremony? Benefits: visibility of tchg with UTS, reduces time commitment for upper admin (don’t have to attend a separate ADT ceremony).

• Publications
  o eLOB: 239 downloads. Whenever you represent the ADT, take the QR code! Art can provide again if you don’t have it.
  o Non-Apple version: it will be published soon as a press book format. UTArlington librarian is helping. Remaining action item: accessibility review. Once complete, it will come out.
  o LOBlog: Kevin S and Kevin C recent blog posts. 3 more ADT blog posts in the wings. Need more!
  o LOBI: 1000 book copies in progress, relatively on timeline for April

• New business, as needed
  o Bob Duke: initiative to capture all emails and names of ROTAs at each campus, completed. Next steps: using the list as a way to communicate with people who care about teaching & recognized for teaching – listserv? Other medium?
    ▪ Set up ad hoc committee to ID what we want to disseminate and how we want to do it

2:32: Closing comments. Cathy Ross
Meeting 1, April 3, 2020
11:00 AM, Central, via Zoom

Present: Art Brownlow, Beth Brunk-Chavez, Martine Ceberio, Colin Charlton, Kevin Cokley, John Daly, Pat Davis, Diana Dominguez, Bob Duke, Jill Fleuriet (Secretary), Karen Huxtable, Brent Iverson, Rebecca Karoff, Ramon Lopez, Jessica Murphy, Mary McNaughton-Cassill, Juan Noveron, Robert Prentice, Weston Rose, Catherine Ross, Kevin Schug, Barbara Shipman, John Sibert, Larry Speck, Michael Starbird (26)

Call to order: 11:00am

I. Welcome to our four new Fellows, with introductions by Fellows from their campuses:
   Colin Charlton, introduced by Art Brownlow
   Jessica Murphy, introduced by Karen Huxtable-Jester
   Martine Ceberio, introduced by Beth Brunk-Chavez
   Carolyn Seepersad, introduced by Brent Iverson

II. Intros of existing ADT members, Rebecca Karoff (UT System Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and liaison with ADT), Weston Rose (Program Communications and Coordination, UT System Office of Academic Affairs); description of UTS ADT, what we do & why we do it, annual meeting schedule

III. Bob’s listserv as response to teaching during pandemic: weekly conversations on topics related to teaching in a pandemic
   • Include all ROTAs and all members of local ADTs/TLCs (Bob has this already)
   • First communication: intro to list and opt out instrux
   • Second communication: set up virtual meeting time (maybe one hour/week?)
   • Comments
     o Pat: in first email, include example of what we’re going to do & how we’re going to do it
     o Art: exciting because another way to reach people
     o Weston: when he floated the idea on Linked In, at least 2k nods, over 40 comments
     o Cathy: also good because sharing another way to show we want to be available
     o Diana: good way to start convo on quality education online
     o Pat: do we envision this as an open forum or thematic?
Bob: yes, and we need interaction, something that makes the synchronous time worth it (otherwise, could do it in an email)
Ramon: consider using subrooms in Zoom to have breakout sessions, perhaps each campus could ID someone on campus who did the transition well

IV. Ambassadors Project, Jill Fleuriet
- Jill: on target for pilot but pilot may be delayed because of covid19; subcommittee of Cathy/Diana/Art has identified some more logistical questions.
- Pat: can we send the new ADT members the blurb so they can ID other possible areas of expertise? Action item for Jill (completed 4.3.20, added to ADT Meeting Notes, available to committee)

V. Budget update, Pat Davis
- Budget is 35k
  - Plan on 4-6k per ADT meeting
  - Haven’t spent a lot but what we have is right on target
  - $2,013 in royalties available to us
  - Rebecca/UT System supported ADT’s participation in Lilly Conference this year, which is where we piloted the winter conference presentations and workshops. It was a one time action, and it worked really well. May want to consider building this into our ADT budget

VI. Little Orange Book II, Brent Iverson
- Art stated that the LOB II is in the warehouse, but we are not sure how to distribute it this time. Weston suggested that we consider working with the UT Press to see how they might help us market the book.
- Catherine mentioned that she is not sure whether we should move forward on the 3rd book at this point.
- Ken Roemer asked whether we have money to give each of the student contributors a couple of copies of the book. Catherine thinks we do, and will look into it.

VII. Winter Teaching Conference at UTRGV, Art Brownlow and Karen Huxtable-Jester’
- Planning continues on this conference

VIII. Miscellaneous: Brent will be sending out the revised By-laws.

Stopped for break around 12:38

Meeting 2, April 3rd, 2020
2:00 PM, via Zoom

Present: Sophia Andres, Art Brownlow, Beth Brunk-Chavez, Martine Ceberio, Colin Charlton, John Daly, Pat Davis, Diana Dominguez, Bob Duke, Jill Fleuriet, Neil Gray, Karen Huxtable, Brent Iverson, Rebecca Karoff, Mary McNaughton-Cassill, Jessica Murphy, Alex Piquero, Robert Prentice, Weston Rose, Catherine Ross, Kevin Schug, John Sibert, Larry Speck, Michael Starbird (24)
Reconvened: 2:05pm

1. Wrap up any unfinished business from morning session
   a. Cathy: consider a virtual meeting in the fall to touch base

2. New ideas or issues Fellows want to bring up

3. An open-ended conversation about what we think we are learning in this moment in history about
   a. higher education in general
   b. teaching and learning
   c. the future of online, hybrids, face-to-face classes
   d. opportunities the crisis has provided us
   e. how the UTS ADT can be of service. Offer to be part of working group with UTS, however structured.
   f. Themes during convo: Cathy: students not really like it but (Beth) it’s not really online learning, it’s remote ed. Cathy: agreed. Heard that moving to online is likely more and more in future. Diana: agreed re remote ed versus online learning. Catherine, Pat: hybrid may be the future & in ways that help both face to face and online courses. Assessment may be the next big challenge for online learning. Concern about doing less with more with others do more with more – makes us less competitive for students. Discussion about labs – what to do when can’t meet face to face and why face to face has to happen; equity in remote education during crisis; future of online/hybrid given the projected economic impact of COVID19 on higher education. Administrators and faculty leaders could benefit from understanding the academic responses to disasters – perhaps we can help ID and disseminate that work, e.g., compassion fatigue.

Meeting 3, April 9, 2020 – cancelled. All business addressed during first two meetings.
2 PM via Zoom
MINUTES

Attending: Catherine Ross (President), Jill Fleuriet (Secretary), Karen Huxtable-Jester, Diana Dominguez, Martine Ceberio, Jessica Murphy, Susan Doty, Michael Starbird, Barbara Shipman, Art Brownlow, Giulio Francia, John Hadjimarcou, Mary McNaughton-Cassill, Shelia Amin Gutierrez de Pinieras, Robert Prentice, Brent Iverson, Ramon Lopez, Beth Brunk-Chavez, Rebecca Karoff, Susan Doty, Kevin Cokley, Kenneth Roemer, Bob Duke, Carolyn Seepersad

I. Call to Order: 2:04pm

II. Announcements:

- rescheduling meeting with Chancellor;
- ambassadors pilot exchange planned for Spring 2020;
- February teaching conference at UTRGV still moving forward, though may be virtual
  - Consider inviting high school teachers who teach dual credit; graduate students; undergraduate students who will be teachers
    - Colin Charlton’s department has way to promote and do outreach to dual credit teachers
  - Consider using this as core material for eLob3 or conference proceedings

III. Discussion about Racism in the Academy and What We Can/Should/Will Do It

- Topics: how to have the conversation; what constitutes an ally; what constitutes a substantive conversation
- Goals, possible: learning how to have conversations about racism with students; giving permission to ourselves to have the conversations with each other without knowing how to have them
- Discussed the fact that we as an Academy are still learning about this issue, and trying to figure out how our own backgrounds impact our responses. Emphasized the need to help more students of color succeed in college and graduate school and pursue academic careers. Brent emphasized the fact that we as faculty members can control how we teach and educate people about inequity even though we can’t control things like admissions.

KJF left at 3:10. Mary McNaughton-Cassill continued minutes, left at 3:24.
Meeting began at 2:00PM.

I. Miscellaneous and Spontaneous Conversation Topics
   A. How are different campuses dealing with policy regarding privacy and recordings of classes?
   B. How are different campuses handling budget reductions? Priorities, actions

II. Report from the Course Hero Education Summit report
   A. Presenters: Mike Starbird, Kevin Cokley (higher education readiness to talk about race, including policing on campus; see excerpted slide below), Mary McNaughton-Cassill (faculty and student mental health), Catherine Ross (working with underprepared students), Kevin Schug (emerging scholars in STEM)
   B. Teaching conference ideas
   C. Concerns about Course Hero: distribution of copyrighted material without permission. Distribution of tests without faculty permission.

III. Follow up from our anti-racism subcommittee on where we go from here. Kevin shared a slide at the Course Hero conference that I found esp. helpful. I am attaching it here

IV. Report, ADT Exec Board meeting with Chancellor
   A. Predictions on opening of campuses this fall
   B. The experience of going online and how it may help us shape a "new" or “next” "normal"
   C. Our relationship with UTS and the Chancellor
   D. Ways the UTS ADT might continue advocating for, supporting, and leading efforts to improve undergraduate teaching
   E. Ideas about how to educate the growing population of Texas

V. Virtual Orange Book for 20-21?
A. what faculty think about good teaching online, what students think

VI. Next meeting ideas: Events committee will discuss how we can work with new ROTA winners and get back to us. For ADT, probably end of September, Friday @ 2pm.

VII. LOB update: Weston got numbers from new faculty at each campus and had UT Press ship LOBs to each campus. Still need addresses for students from ADT members in order to send them books – if don’t have them, please let Weston know. If do have them, please complete your parts so we can send the books.

VIII. Publications: committee will discuss LOB Virtual (Brent & Art).

IX. ROTA for 20-21 (Brent suggestion): support Chancellor idea about focusing the ROTA on innovation during Covid19 year? General support. Brent & Beth tasked to write draft letter of support.

X. Teaching Ambassadors Program: Sept meeting with Jill, Catherine & her provost, Art & Diana and their provost

XI. Next meeting re: ADT and anti-racism: more structured, emphasis on implicit bias. Date tbd.

Meeting ended at 3:33 PM.

Strategies for Faculty to Talk about Race

Don’t Avoid
- Don’t avoid talking about current racial events.

Uncertainty
- It is okay to be uncertain.

Educate
- Educate yourself about history of race and racism as it relates to your discipline.

Collaboration
- Seek out advice, collaboration, and support.

Inclusive
- How you teach is as important as what you teach

Humility
- Approach the topic of race with humility and openness.

Don’t Be
- Don’t be silent about racism. Silence is support.