

# **Professional Development Committee**

**Report from 31 Sept 05**

**Members present:** Jeff White (Chair), Mari Ippolito, Richard Cohen

**Next meeting:** 21 Oct at 3:30 in GHB 103 (subsequent meetings on 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays at 3:30)

The committee discussed several items, including the Faculty Senate's charge that PDC oversee UAA's continued consideration and piloting of the Individual Development and Educational Assessment instrument (IDEA).

## **Committee's statement on uses of survey data**

Professional development opportunities differ in use from institutionally-required teacher evaluation reports; however, the committee recognizes that each can be available, in part, from student-supplied data.

Currently, UAA uses an institutionally-developed student survey as the primary instrument of teacher evaluation in retention and tenure reports. Faculty Senate has heard criticisms from OPRA, distance education and other faculty, and several administrators regarding the validity, return rate, reporting, and relevance of the current student survey.

This committee acknowledges, as has the Senate, that UAA will (and should) continue to survey student perceptions of teaching in the future; but it hopes to concentrate attention on the potential the data holds for faculty committed to developing their teaching skills.

## **IDEA-related focus for 2005-2006**

The PDC will focus its attention regarding the IDEA survey on the following issues:

- considering how the diagnostic version of IDEA could fit into the UAA system to best assist faculty members in improving their teaching
- working with the Diversity committee on cultural sensitivity consideration in the instrument
- inviting ACDLIT to collaborate with us how IDEA might serve distance education faculty
- ensuring a balance of faculty from different disciplines, teaching formats, and delivery formats pilot IDEA in the Fall 2005
- organizing a forum of faculty who pilot IDEA in the Fall 2005

## **Other issues to consider in 2005-2006**

the committee discussed addressing this senate session included the following:

- Providing information to faculty on alternative methods of learning about one's teaching (as distinct from institutional assessment)
  - Peer observations
  - Classroom Assessment Techniques
  - Informal mid-term questionnaires
- Meeting with CAFE Director and/or being on the agenda at the Advisory Council to identify current status of funding and support
- Making guidelines and standards for retention, promotion, and tenure documentation easier to find across campus