Columbia Center for Teaching and Learning

University Senate Plenary, November 20, 2015

Soulaymane Kachani
Kathy Takayama
Columbia should establish a Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL)

The CTL will provide support for schools, departments, faculty, and graduate students to:

• Improve and advance teaching
• Share best practices
• Promote innovations in pedagogy, curriculum and the use of technology
Peers Benefited from Centralized Support

Institutions with University Level CTLs

- Harvard University
- Stanford University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Brown University
- California Institute of Technology
- Cornell University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- University of California Berkeley
- University of Chicago
- University of Michigan Ann Arbor
- University of Pennsylvania
- New York University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- University of Texas Austin
- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

All of our peers have established campus-wide CTLs:
- Oldest: U Michigan 50+ years
- Most recent: U Chicago 2013-14

Columbia’s previous approach:
Decentralized arrangement of local and heterogeneous school-based units

Columbia University and Affiliates

- Columbia Business School
- Samberg Institute for Teaching Excellence
- Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- Graduate Student Teaching Center
- Columbia Center for New Media Teaching and Learning
- Teachers College Office of Teacher Education
The Center for Teaching and Learning was officially launched on September 15th, 2015.
Columbia | CTL
Center for Teaching and Learning

Instructional Innovations

In The Classroom

Online

Around The World
Cartesian View of Learning

knowledge as substance

and pedagogy as knowledge transfer

Brown & Adler, 2008
The Social View of Learning

we participate, therefore we are

understanding is socially constructed
Trends/Forces:
• Specialization
• Globalization
• Technology
• Collaboration
How students experience faculty in our current participatory culture:

The importance of authentic...

- Passion for the subject matter
- Respect for students
- Interest in student development
- Interest in students’ epistemology
- Attempts to make disciplinary questions come alive

Kilgo et al. (2014)
Most important factors for successful student learning outcomes*

- Higher-order cognitive work including analysis, synthesis, and application
- Diversity experiences
- Co-curricular experiences
- Peer interactions
- Academic challenge
- High-impact practices
- Teaching clarity and organization

*Wabash National Study of Practices and Conditions that Promote Liberal Education 2006-12
ACTIVATE
Explore student-centered pedagogy

EXPERIMENT
Analyze new instructional ideas

PRODUCE
Use multimedia to enhance online learning

DESIGN
Develop a new project

SHOWCASE
Share best practices

COLLABORATE
Partner with us - set up a consultation
PROGRAMES for faculty/graduate TAs

- Workshops:
  blended learning  case studies in the sciences
  teamwork  informal early feedback
  inclusive teaching  communication
  contemplative pedagogy

- Teaching institutes
- Teaching Certificate Programs
- Diversity training
- Mentoring Programs
INDIVIDUAL SERVICES for faculty/graduate TAs

• Teaching observations
• Course evaluation and feedback
• Course and curriculum design
• Innovative projects and assignments
• Communications and presentations
• Documenting teaching effectiveness; teaching statements and portfolios
• Grant writing workshops
The Social View of Learning

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The Core Curriculum

- Communal learning
- Critical dialogue
- Personally transformative
- Human experience
One of the primary reasons students leave STEM is because of their experiences in large, introductory courses.

National attrition rates*

- All students: 60%
- Underrepresented minorities: 80%

*2013 data from Higher Education Research Institute as reported by HHMI.
Active, collaborative learning environments
Communication, collaborative learning
Future partnerships with undergraduate students

- Students as collaborators in course redesign
- Learn to learn workshops
- Peer learning
- Digital literacy
- Communication and presentation workshops
- Teamwork workshops
- Facilitator training
http://ctl.columbia.edu/