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Minutes of the University Council on Teaching
Tuesday, September 17, 2018
12:00-1:30, CTE

Attendees: Kathleen Bailey, Jeff Cohen, Billy Soo, Shaylonga Barton, Stacy Grooters, Kristen
Heyer, Sarah Castricum, Jessica Black, Patricia Tabloski, Danielle Taghian, Sylvia Sellers-Garcia, Julia Devoy, Madeleine McCollough, Bob Bloom

The agenda of

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Updates section. The addition of an email address to which suggestions for new topics could be
sent was also suggested.

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evaluations by students: is it easier for white males to talk about issues of race and gender in
the classroom, and do female faculty or faculty of color that bring up such issues in the
classroom receive more critical comments on course evaluations as a result? Moreover, required
courses in a field are generally judged worse on course evaluations that higher-level electives in
a major, raising another difficulty.

In light of the importance that feedback from such evaluations can have for faculty who wish
to

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The possibility of including information on student demographics was discussed, and while such
information would be helpful in tracking bias, it could also be potentially too specific and thus
undermine the anonymity of the course evaluations.

In regards to how much emphasis should be placed on course evaluations, it was emphasized
that such evaluations can only be a piece of the puzzle, and that there are also many other
important factors that must be considered.