Second reflection on balance among teaching, research, and service

May 13th, 2008
2:00pm
S103A

Hosted by the
Joint Chapter of the Education Society/Society for Social Implications of Technology (SSIT)

Western PR Section of IEEE
Goal

- Develop philosophical principles to update and include details in the 2003 plan of the department.
- Develop principles to deal with our balancing act and the realities of being an educator (in the broader sense of the word) at UPRM.
Questions

- How should we deal with the various constraints with regards to teaching and research and service?
- Challenges: Our (in)ability of reaching a balance among our various responsibilities as educators.
- What does education mean to us?
  - We refer to teaching as education. Education is a broader term.
- How to best allocate scarce resources to achieve and support our duties?
- We've reached saturation in our Department, due in part to space and lack of resources.
Proposed Agenda

- Perception on what is education
  - Philosophy for education
- Dealing with research-related problems
  - Administrative support for research
  - Administrative office – paperwork
  - Graduate school
  - Culture – Can we achieve a research culture?
- Identify tracks for professors and metrics
  - Broader sense of Service
  - Teaching
  - Research
- SWOT analysis for Department
participants

- Palomera
- Ierkic
- Nayda
- Rafa
- Manuel
- Miguel F.
- Raul
- Shawn
- Jaime
- O’Neill
Balance between research and teaching: Research

- **Strengths**
  - Students
  - Teamwork
  - Faculty interest and motivation, commitment
  - Faculty background in EE and Computing (interdisciplinary collaborations)

- **Weaknesses**
  - Lack of a strategic plan, with continuous improvement metrics
  - Bin counting of papers, instead of evaluating quality of publications
  - Lack of appropriate profile
  - Difficulty in attracting people to Administration at Dept Level
  - Resistance to change (innovation, improvement)

- **Opportunities**
  - Funding for Minority Institution
  - Potential Funding in Computing Systems Engineering
  - Administration as a track

- **Threats**
  - Students’ academic background is degrading
Balance between research and teaching: Teaching

- **Strengths**
  - Students
  - Faculty interest and motivation, commitment
  - Long teaching tradition
  - Faculty background in EE and Computing (interdisciplinary collaborations)

- **Weaknesses**
  - Lack of effective metrics
    - Student evaluations are easily manipulated, impact
    - Student evaluation forms not appropriate for some courses
      - Capstone courses, new courses, topics that vary
  - Lack of appropriate profile
  - Difficulty in attracting people to Administration at Dept Level
  - Lack of innovation of teaching materials, practices, methods
  - Resistance to change (innovation, improvement): ex. Course w/ non-traditional formats
  - “Libertad de catedra”
  - Lack of a strategic plan, with continuous improvement metrics
  - Administration
    - Lack of administrative help for course development and improvement
    - Lack of adm structure to attract funding: Ex. Need for “Public Relations”
    - Administrator as a overseer of the rules and regulations, little room and resources to improve

- **Opportunities**
  - Continuing education opportunities

- **Threats**
  - Not taking advantage of videoconferencing capabilities for teaching
  - Students’ academic background is degrading
  - Private universities have visibility and impact on service to Puerto Rico
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