

## SENIOR TEACHING ASSISTANTS INTRODUCTION

### Definition of STA

- Experienced TA who has been selected by department and funded by CTD grants

### Description

- outstanding record as TA and peer leader in department
- strong interest in the teaching aspects of scholarly work
- desire to continue teaching career upon receiving degree
- ability to communicate the essence of good teaching
- deep familiarity with departmental operations
- comfortable interacting with faculty and staff

### Expectations

- expectations of STAs
- expectations of departments
- expectations of TAs
- expectations of students

### Roles and Responsibilities

- liaison
- training designer
- consultant/mentor (includes modeling, in-course help, organizational/time management tips, etc.)
- instructional materials source
- develop departmental resources

### Concerns and Issues of STAs

- what can be included in a departmental TA training program (orientation and thematic workshops)
- what training resources are available (CTD, departmental)
- what are some of the issues that arise when observing peers
- challenging situations: problems/suggestions
- how to provide constructive, non-threatening feedback

### Plans for Quarterly Meetings

- optimum scheduling
- suggestions for agenda

## SOME STA ACTIVITIES AT UCSD

- orienting new TAs to department and requirements
- arranging workshops for department TAs
- observing TAs in section, holding consultations with TAs
- being available as a mentor TA
- serving as a liaison between the faculty and the TAs
- assisting new TAs with organizational concerns:
  - time management
  - grading
  - office hours, etc.
- assisting with TA assignments
- videotaping TA sections
- reviewing videotapes with TAs
- administrative duties (duplicating material, distributing material)
- pre-academic year planning:
  - curriculum development
  - course development, etc.