



Student Course Evaluations and Teaching Quality

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Student Course Evaluations and Teaching Quality and Improvement



- Solely using student evaluations of teaching to help faculty improve teaching and for personnel decisions regarding faculty is problematic - influenced by a host of course characteristics unrelated to teaching effectiveness, such as the time of day the course meets, the subject, class size, whether the course is required, and the gender of the instructor.
- Student course evaluations have been found to be only weakly correlated with other measures of teaching effectiveness and student learning.
- Student feedback should not be the only measure of teaching quality, but rather, just one element of a holistic assessment of teaching effectiveness.

Student Course Evaluations

- Center for Learning Innovations redesigned the Student Course Evaluation based on student surveys and focus groups.
- Should be treated as Customer Satisfaction survey.
- Trial run of new survey questions this fall for midterm and end of term evaluations using Blackboard. Possible revisions (i.e. shortening) based on the data we collect. We will still call on faculty to assist with getting students to complete the evaluations. Possible future upgrade to more robust tool.
- Results available, in Blackboard, only to the faculty teaching the course, unless the academic unit approves another use. Faculty can choose to include in Faculty Activity Reports, and tenure/promotion/contract renewal portfolios.

Teaching Quality and Improvement

- Some academic units already have a process to help faculty reflect on and improve their teaching, or are developing one.
- Center for Learning Innovations is working with academic unit heads to document their current process, if one exists. Or to help academic units to develop a process.
- When complete, we will share the processes being used with all academic unit heads, and work with academic units to develop their process to help faculty reflect on and improve their teaching and improve student learning.
- This process, or a separate one, can also be used as a component of tenure/promotion/contract renewal.
- A one-size-fits-all solution on the academic units is not the answer. Rather, we believe that a solution designed by the faculty in each academic unit, for their academic unit, will be much more sustainable in the long run.