

Student Ratings Review Committee 21 August, 2015 Minutes

Present: Dr. Renee Akbar, Dr. James Bartkus, Dr. Elizabeth Hammer, Dr. Karen Nichols, Dr. KiTani Lemieux, Dr. Harris McFerrin, Dr. Suki Pramar, Dr. Steven Salm, Dr. Jeremy Tuman

Absent: Dr. Michael Homan (on sabbatical), Dr. Andrea Edwards

The meeting began at 2:05pm.

We began by looking at how we posted MVP minutes and the set up for faculty to give feedback. We agreed to use this model for posting and obtaining feedback for this committee. Karen will take minutes, Elizabeth will send them to the committee for approval then we'll post on the CAT+FD site.

1. Elizabeth reported that the VPPA's office understands this is long-term process. We can roll out certain recommendations rather than waiting to do all of them at the end. One recommendation might be to have an online evaluation. We can pilot the new evaluation feature, classroom climate, in Blackboard using current questions for example. This feature allows you to add 2 questions but these questions will also be reported with the others. Question: Will students be required to complete the evaluations? Depends on the instructor right now. Old evaluation form will be ready for this fall in Bb if we want to pilot it. Old evaluation form was also moved to a new paper form. [Update: The system might not be ready to go this fall. Elizabeth will meet with Drs. Giguette and Durnford to find out more.]
2. Reviewing our mission as a committee:
 - a. Prepare report,
 - b. review content itself,
 - c. decide how we want evaluations for online/hybrid to be different
3. We will start by going through questions on the current form and decide what to keep, pitch, what kind of things do we want to know to Improve and what do we need to know for R&T. Let's discuss how we use the questions.
4. Steve reported data from the informal faculty survey
 - a. Most useful questions: Open Ended, others that are useful deal with how the instructor manages the class—Questions 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
 - b. Least useful: Question 9, 10 which are not written well.
5. Harris submitted another school's evaluation for us to look at. We may want to compare how they ask the questions.
6. We discussed need for a different evaluation for online courses, but it should be very closely matched to the one for face-to-face courses.
7. What about courses with multiple instructors especially in COP? The Bb evaluation will be open for each instructor rather than only once at the end.
8. What about a question on student engagement?
9. Our Question #13 needs to be re-worded
10. Our 2 categories should be about the course and the instructor with less emphasis on the course and more on the instructor

11. What about multiple sections taught with a common syllabus, book, etc like freshman biology and some pharmacy? We should keep that scenario in mind.
12. Renee discussed how she uses evaluations in the Division of Education and Counseling.
13. So what are the most important characteristics of instructors and courses?
Clarity, respect, availability, bigger picture, critical thinking,
14. How much student information do we want?
 - a. Major, required course, etc.
 - b. From student ratings: Expected grade, elective, level of course, class size, level of difficulty, workload. This info can only be useful to instructor to interpret the ratings, comments from that student.
 - c. Average number of hours the students invested in the course.
15. Let's make the goal not to increase the number of questions asked but quality of the questions asked.
16. Let's craft useful open-ended questions.
17. Homework: Write 3 questions that are course-related; identify 5 characteristics most useful for the instructor part of the evaluation. We will start there at our next meeting.

Next meeting: Wednesday, Sept 2, 2pm

Thanks to everyone for coming!