

SENATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
STUDENT COURSE FEEDBACK

MEETING AGENDA

Marriott Library, Room 1705
Wednesday, October 17, 2018
2:30PM to 3:30PM

ATTENDEES

Maureen Mathison (Chair), Merilee Anderson, Julia Franklin, Adam Halstrom, Kaitlin McLean, Jeffrey Moore, Cody Orton, Patrick Tripeny, Aryana Vadipour, Morgan Wilson

EXCUSED

Jeff Bates, Ann Darling, Lorelei Rutledge

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Committee members introduce themselves and welcome new members.

REPORT FROM CTLE

Standardized Student Course Feedback Instrument

- Pat Tripeny provides new committee members with context.
 - Committee is in 4th-5th year.
 - SCF started with students in the mid-70's. Grew from students asking what they would recommend: posted on a bulletin board.
 - Numerical information is shared with students; comments are not.
 - Early 2000s the U went online and ran a standard survey across campus. The standard instrument has 14 standard questions and 2 comments.
 - CTLE ran focus groups to determine satisfaction with current survey questions among students and faculty.
 - During 2017-2018, the committee developed an instrument of seven (7) primary questions with three (3) follow-up questions.
 - The committee attempted to move away from a 6 point scale on all questions.
 - Questions that were directed to a certain topic and perceived audience.
 - The instrument allows for some follow-up questions and every question has an open comment box.
 - Presented to the Senate Executive Committee twice last year without a vote.
 - Ownership of the standardized SCF instrument is under Academic Senate.

Proposed instrument developed in committee during 2017-2018 is opened discussion:

- A student committee member validates the feeling that current model doesn't work for students. Students are driven to places like Ratemyprofessor.com. Students want to know about individual feedback and comments.

- One member proposes that some open-ended responses be available.
- One member asks, why should we retool the instrument?
 - The current instrument is an old instrument, used since 2003 and largely doesn't meet the needs of the campus community.
 - Fewer students are responding.
 - The proposed standardized instrument is more straightforward and student-centered.
- One committee member suggests adding a question about the course (required, elective, etc.).
- Is there a way to offset bias based on gender and race?
 - There are studies that confirm bias in student course feedback results.
 - The RPT standards committee is tasked with determining what goes into RPT.
 - Some universities have removed standardized student feedback from RPT.
- Student members report this instrument would elicit an honest response in all courses (required, Gen Ed, major).
- One member asks, what are the ways to increase the response rate?
 - Provide a disclaimer to inform students about the uses of their feedback.
 - Encourage instructors to have students submit feedback in class using laptop or internet-enabled devices.

Suggested changes to the instrument:

- Add question about the course (required, election, etc.).
- Add an additional comment box for anything that wasn't addressed in the previous questions.
- Add a control variable (like grade).

GOALS FOR 2018-2019

- Send the instrument out to the committee members for feedback to be discussed at the next meeting.
- Design a proposed implementation plan to include, among other things:
 - How the results are reported and to whom.
 - The possibility for other units to add questions (Instructor, Department, General Education, other campus unit).
- Get the instrument to the Academic Senate for a vote.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Early-November

SENATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
STUDENT COURSE FEEDBACK

MEETING AGENDA

Marriott Library, Room 1726A
Wednesday, December 05, 2018
2:30PM to 3:30PM

ATTENDEES

Maureen Mathison (Chair), Jeff Bates, Adam Halstrom, Merilee Anderson, Lorelei Rutledge, Jeffrey Moore, Cody Orton, Patrick Tripeny, Aryana Vadipour, Morgan Wilson

EXCUSED

Julia Franklin, Ann Darling, Kaitlin McLean

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

APPROVE MINUTES

October 17, 2018 Meeting Minutes (Motion to approve by Aryana Vadipour and seconded Jeff Moore; unanimously approved)

FEEDBACK ON PROPOSED STANDARDIZED INSTRUMENT

Clarification that the goal is to get the instrument to the Senate as quickly as possible. Not to reinvent what the committee has already done.

Feedback on Objectives Met:

- The long list is concerning.
- It will likely need to be updated.
- Student brought the survey to Academic Affairs board for feedback.
 - Hover over description for each item to define them.
- Suggestion to make this an open-ended option rather than a “representative” list. Or make this a list of general items.

- Not every question would lead to a number that would involve RPT decisions.

Meet with Harriett to get support to drop this from RPT.

Screen for obvious bias?

We are proposing to change from the 14 question form to this new revised instrument.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION TO ACCEPT WITH CHANGES AS DISCUSSED. SECONDED. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

FUTURE MEETINGS