

Teaching Evaluation Committee 2012-2013 Report to the Faculty Senate

The committee met on a number of occasions this academic year and had productive discussions. The primary task in the Fall 2012 semester was to refine and finish the updated student perception of teaching form (to replace the SUSSAI/SPOT questions), a process begun in 2011. Pilot tests of an updated form were conducted in the spring and summer terms of 2012.

We presented the proposed revisions to the Faculty Senate at the October 17, 2012 meeting. A lengthy discussion ensued among senators concerning: the purposes of teaching evaluations, whether such summaries should be publicly accessible, differences between forms for online courses and face-to-face courses (form would be the same for all courses), responses to the open-ended questions should only go to instructor, mid-term or earlier course evaluations can be conducted for instructor feedback, changes in the rating (point) system, and other questions. A straw poll was taken of senators' view whether course ratings should be publicly available or not. Results appeared to be approximately evenly split. The committee was asked to review questions that were raised about the form.

The committee solicited additional comments through email from senators and interested faculty. We received a number of helpful suggestions and we met several times to address these and the questions raised at the October Senate meeting. We revised the form following consideration of the suggestions, and presented the updated form at the November 14 meeting of the Senate. The minutes of that meeting present a detailed summary of the changes made by the committee, including changes in name to SPCI (Student Perception of Courses and Instructors), graphics, location of sections on form, wording changes, and two additional questions. Following a brief discussion, during which no new amendments to the form were proposed, the motion passed.

The new form was used for the first time in spring semester, 2013, for all courses and was used in both paper and electronic forms. These final versions of the SPCI can be found linked on the page:
<http://distance.fsu.edu/instructors/course-evaluations>
<http://distance.fsu.edu/docs/assessment/SPCI.pdf>
<http://distance.fsu.edu/docs/assessment/eSPCI.pdf>

In the spring term, the committee addressed several procedural problems arising from the use of paper forms in individual departments. These included: the instructor of record (which is derived from the Registrar's listing) and matching evaluations to the correct instructors, and delivery delays (or missing forms) such that forms are not able to be processed.

Appreciation should be expressed to the members of the committee for their contributions this year: Russell Almond, Kay Grise, Charles Hofacker, Elizabeth Jakubowski, Tom Keller, Robert Reiser, Susan Ward, & Mark Zeigler.

Ex officio members: Jean Marc Wise, Nancy Guidry.
Other attendees: Connie Eudy, Marshall Kapp

John M. Geringer, Chair, Teaching Evaluation Committee