

Report of the FSU Teaching Evaluation Committee

19 April 2019

Members for 2018–2019, as posted at

<http://facsenate.fsu.edu/standing-faculty-senate-committees/teaching-evaluation-committee>

2015-2018

Elizabeth Jakubowski, Education

Rhea Lathan, Arts and Sciences

Candace Ward, Arts and Sciences

2016-2019

Jon Ahlquist, Arts and Sciences, Chair

Lynne Hinnant, Communication and Information

Tom Keller, Arts and Sciences

2017-2020

Christine Andreas-Larsen, Education

TBC, Music

Ashok Srinivasan, Arts and Sciences

Ex officio:

Janet Kistner, Vice President for Faculty Development and Advancement

Robby Fuselier, Coordinator of Instructional Development

Mike Straszewski, Coordinator of Assessment Services

We did not meet this academic year, because no business was directed to us.

On 14 February, Prof. Carl Wieman visited FSU to discuss his research on undergraduate science teaching. He is the author of "Improving How Universities Teach Science," published by Harvard University Press in 2017, and a 1990 Nobel laureate in physics. See

<https://news.fsu.edu/news/science-technology/2019/01/25/fsu-to-host-nobel-winner-for-lecture-on-science-education/>

This was a busy spring for me, so I have only skimmed his book, but I plan to study it over the summer. I am aware that Dr. Wieman has also considered course evaluations. He says that traditional course evaluations:

(*) ask students whether they like the course without measuring the quality of teaching, and

(*) are biased against women and minorities.

He expects that traditional course evaluations will be discontinued before too many years. He proposes teaching evaluations based on the extent to which instructors incorporate research-based teaching methods in their courses. His two publications regarding teaching evaluations are:

Wieman, C., and S. Gilbert, 2014: The teaching practices inventory: A new tool for characterizing college and university teaching in mathematics and science. *CBE—Life Sciences Education*, Vol. 13, 552–569. Downloadable from <https://www.lifescied.org/doi/full/10.1187/cbe.14-02-0023>

Wieman, C., 2015: A better way to evaluate undergraduate teaching. *Change: The Magazine of Higher Learning*, Vol. 47, 2015, issue 1. Downloadable from <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00091383.2015.996077>

I suggest that we assemble a group of interested parties to look at teaching evaluation from the perspective of Dr. Wieman and other education experts. This may or may not be the same committee assigned to consider our traditional course evaluations, or it may be a group of people more attuned with educational research. We could use the summer to identify:

(*) people at FSU who could be involved and

(*) published resources on teaching evaluation.

I copied Dr. Harper on a version of this report, because she knows much more about these things than I, and she is the incoming Faculty Senate President. Important resources already at FSU are the faculty associated with FSU Teach and FSU's MS in Science Teaching. While I have been exposed only to issues regarding teaching of science, Dr. Harper has a broader perspective through her position in the History Dept.

In Spring 2019, I was elected as a representative to the Arts & Sciences Dean's Advisory Board. Within that body, I want to bring up Dr. Wieman's Science Education Initiative. Dr. Wieman's path to updating undergraduate science teaching at the University of Colorado and the University of British Columbia was expensive, and I expect it would be difficult to mobilize similar resources at FSU. Nonetheless, I think we need to be informed about his major effort regarding science teaching and evaluation.

Jon Ahlquist