

CEPP Meeting Minutes  
08.04.2020

Zoom Conference 2:00-3:00 pm.

Scribe: Feryaz Ocakli

Attendees: Steve Ives, Feryaz Ocakli, Michael Orr, Leigh Wilton, Rachael Borthwick, Jina Mao, Peter von Allmen, Pat Hilleren, Joseph Stankovich, Kerry Nelson

- 1) Discussed the online implementation of Student Ratings and Feedback in Fall 2020. Kerry Nelson and Joe Stankovich updated CEPP on their work to implement the Dean's Card portion of the Student Ratings and Feedback online. This is a challenging technical task, but they have made good progress in terms of testing the mechanism.
  - a. We are confident that the Dean's Cards can be implemented online.
  - b. Testing has been promising, but not without some glitches.
  - c. Ideally, we would run a pilot program to see if the software can handle the load of student surveys, but we do not have that time. We discussed running a mini-pilot program with a number of short-term courses in September 2020.
  - d. Although we are on the right track to be able to implement the Dean's Cards online in the Fall, Joe and Kerry cautioned CEPP that this is a difficult technical task, and that we may run into unforeseen challenges and glitches during implementation.
- 2) Discussed the implementation of the departmental long form evaluations. We currently do not have a college-wide system to implement the departmental long forms. The Office of Institutional Research has never been tasked with these forms.
  - a. Joe and Kerry informed us that it would not be possible to integrate these forms into the Dean's Cards system given time and resource limitations.
  - b. We discussed whether each department's administrative assistant could distribute, collect, and process the long forms online. This is a difficult proposition, and we need input from administrative assistants on whether they believe this may be possible.
  - c. We discussed the need to examine the Dean's Cards and the long forms separately, since they require separate solutions in terms of implementation. We also noted that sending two separate sets of evaluations to students could have a negative impact on response rates.
- 3) We briefly discussed the possibility of eliminating student evaluations for Fall 2020. There has been some faculty pushback at the idea of holding evaluations under the pandemic conditions. Many faculty members have contacted CEPP members to question whether holding evaluations under pandemic conditions will be "fair and honest," as they ought to be according to the Faculty Handbook. Many students have also made it known that they would like to see the faculty held accountable for their teaching the same way students are held accountable for their academic performance. We decided to hold an additional meeting soon to discuss these issues in more depth.

- 4) We briefly discussed the possibility of changing Student Ratings and Feedback forms in response to student demands of holding the faculty accountable in terms of anti-racism work, class climate issues, and the broader concerns that have become more amplified since the relaunching of the Black Lives Matter protests in 2020. We noted that this is an important and potentially lengthy conversation, and that we should hold an additional meeting to discuss it in more depth. We also noted that any qualitative changes to the Student Ratings and Feedback forms require a governance process that includes the whole of the faculty as well as robust student representation. To this end, CEPP will contact FEC to inquire about the governance process we ought to follow.

We concluded the meeting at 3 pm.