

FACULTY MEETING

March 5, 2021

MOTION

The Committee on Educational Policies and Planning (CEPP) moves that Student Ratings and Feedback surveys (i.e., all-college quantitative forms and departmental long forms) be administered online in Spring 2021, and, furthermore, that the results of these Student Ratings and Feedback forms be provided only to instructors.

Rationale: The faculty voted on October 2, 2020 to administer Student Ratings and Feedback online in Fall 2020, and to make the results of these surveys available to course instructors only. Although the faculty rejected a motion to make the results of Student Ratings and Feedback available to department chairs and program directors, ATC, PC, and the college administration, individual faculty members were free to share the results of their surveys at their discretion. CEPP proposes that the college adopt the same policy in Spring 2021. After lengthy discussion within the committee and after receiving input from members of the faculty who reached out to the committee, CEPP has concluded that a return to the pre-pandemic policy on Student Ratings and Feedback for the spring semester is not advisable. The conditions and circumstances for teaching remain similar to last semester. Furthermore, the response rates to the Student Ratings instrument in Fall 2020 were significantly below the levels we observed before the pandemic. The average response rate in Fall 2020 was 51.5%, compared to an average between 89-92% when we used paper forms before the pandemic. Although the lower response rate is comparable to other institutions that administer student evaluations online, CEPP considers that the reduced response rate exacerbates existing concerns about the reliability and validity of the results of the surveys. At the same time, CEPP continues to believe that students should have the opportunity to provide feedback to their instructors and that instructors should receive Student Ratings and Feedback for developmental purposes and be free to make their own choices about how to use the results.

Ultimately, CEPP believes that the final authority to make decisions about the administration of Student Ratings and Feedback forms this semester should lie with the Faculty as a whole. To that end, CEPP is bringing the following motion before the faculty for its consideration:

that Student Ratings and Feedback surveys (i.e., all-college quantitative forms and departmental long forms) be administered online in Spring 2021 and the results made available to instructors only; and that individual instructors may share the results of their Student Ratings and Feedback surveys at their discretion.