

FACULTY MEETING
September 4, 2020

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 Fall 2020, and, furthermore, that the results of these Student Ratings and Feedback forms be provided not only to instructors but also to department chairs and program directors, and, when appropriate, ATC, PC, and the college administration.

Rationale: Student Ratings and Feedback were suspended for the Spring 2020 semester following the outbreak of the Covid-19 Pandemic and the subsequent disruption of in-class learning at Skidmore. CEPP was tasked to make a recommendation regarding the administration and use of Student Ratings and Feedback surveys in Fall 2020. After lengthy discussion within the committee and after having received input from ATC and PC, as well as feedback from the faculty-only meeting a few weeks ago, CEPP has concluded that students should have the opportunity to provide ratings and feedback on their courses this semester and that it is important for instructors to receive those ratings and feedback. CEPP recognizes the concerns of many faculty members that the unusual circumstances of this semester are placing exceptional demands on them as teachers and acknowledges concern with how student ratings and feedback may be impacted by those circumstances. At the same time, CEPP considers that the results of student ratings and feedback should be shared with those charged with evaluating faculty members. However, CEPP strongly recommends that ATC, PC, department chairs and program directors, as well as the administration take the unprecedented circumstances of Fall 2020 into consideration when interpreting the results of the Student Ratings and Feedback surveys.

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 this motion before the faculty for its consideration. The motion will be presented in two parts:

- 1) that Student Ratings and Feedback surveys (i.e., all-college quantitative forms and departmental long forms) be administered online in Fall 2020 and the results made available to instructors;
- 2) that the results of Student Ratings and Feedback surveys be made available to department chairs and program directors, and, when appropriate, ATC, PC, and the college administration.