

DATE: May 17, 2017

TO: Dr. Joe Scartelli, Interim Provost; Susan Trageser, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs

FROM: Student Evaluation of Faculty Committee

SUBJECT: End of Academic Year Report

Committee Members: Ms. Melanie Fox, Dr. Abhay Kaushik, Dr. Barry Miller, Dr. Matt Oyos (chair), Ms. Debbie Robinson, Dr. Jyotsna Sharman, Dr. Patricia Shoemaker.

The Student Evaluation of Faculty Committee (SEFC) is an internal governance committee charged with reviewing and recommending policies and procedures related to the student evaluation of teaching faculty. The committee reports to both the University Provost and the Vice President for Student Affairs, and the committee is pleased to submit a summary of its activities during the past academic year.

- The SEFC regularly received and discussed reports from the Office of Academic Assessment on the most recent pilots of the paperless evaluation system. Expanded pilots were conducted in Fall 2016 and Spring 2017. During the spring pilot, 85 percent of evaluated classes used the paperless system, across all colleges. Given the intensive testing of this system and the reduction in costs that it brings, the SEFC joined the Faculty Senate and the Student Government Association in recommending university-wide adoption of this system.
- The SEFC completed revisions to the universal instrument used for the student evaluation of faculty. The present survey was developed at a point in time when the university had less than a handful of online courses, and it did not address well the online learning environment in many of the dimensions being assessed. In undertaking revisions, committee members took a variety of considerations into account: best evaluation practices, continuity between the present form and a revised form, elements unique to online courses, and common features between online and face-to-face classes. The committee also sought to align as best as possible the instrument for online courses with the instrument used for face-to-face classes. As a result, the committee revised survey questions and developed new ones where appropriate. The SEFC also consulted experts in surveying from the Office of Academic Assessment and the Department of Psychology to check its work. In addition, the Center for Accessibility Services examined the committee's proposals, and the committee presented the revisions to the Student Government Association and the Faculty Issues Committee of the Faculty Senate. Feedback from these groups led to further revisions, and the final versions are provided as an addendum to this memorandum.
 - Upon completion of revisions, the SEFC piloted the new instrument for face-to-face courses in Spring 2017. The committee plans to pilot the new online form in

several sections this coming summer.

- Upon receiving data from these pilots, the SEFC will conduct a detailed comparison of the results received from the different forms and will determine the next best course of action to complete this work.

- In 2017-2018, the SEFC looks forward to the conclusion of the above-mentioned initiative to revise the evaluation instrument. The committee also looks forward to the possibility of joining with the Office of Academic Assessment in investigating improved evaluation platforms that might replace the current Class Climate system for administering and processing evaluations.