

To: All tenured faculty, senior lecturers and professors of the practice

From: Faculty Senate's Course Evaluation Implementation Committee (CEIC)

Date: 9-15-15

Re: Fall 2015 pilot to replace current student course evaluation questionnaire

On behalf of the Faculty Senate's Course Evaluation Implementation Committee (CEIC), we invite you to participate in a pilot study of a new online delivery system for student course evaluations (SCEQs) (<http://www.explorance.com/blue-applications/blue-evaluations/>). In addition, we will be piloting a validated survey instrument: the Student's Evaluation of Educational Quality (SEEQ –see attachment) as a potential replacement for the current SCEQ. CEIC requests participation from all tenured faculty as well as senior lecturers and professors of the practice to ensure the broadest possible sample across different departments and course types.

The pilot is a direct response to a directive from the Faculty Senate, and the delivery system is a low cost, flexible, and sustainable solution offered to address and alleviate a number of faculty concerns historically associated with transitioning from paper to online surveys.

The SEEQ survey instrument is proposed as a replacement to the SCEQ, which currently serves as a generic and unvalidated measure of student opinion. The SEEQ offers the advantage of being a validated measurement tool with the ability to better understand what drives variation in student evaluations. However, it is not intended to be a panacea for all ills, a measure of student learning, or a direct assessment of teaching skill.

We cannot emphasize enough how important it is to obtain participation from as many departments as possible. We urge you to help us fulfill the will of the Faculty Senate in completing this evaluation.

Here's how the pilot will work:

- 1) After agreeing to participate, each instructor will receive notification about when the evaluations are available for online completion.
- 2) A full set of instructions will be distributed to each participating instructor.
- 3) Instructors can allow for class time to complete the surveys or simply announce the surveys in class. Students will receive email notification of the surveys. Participants will not be required to also pass out paper SCEQs, but may distribute the "blue sheets" if desired. Note, It may be possible to have the "blue sheets" completed online and the results sent directly to the participants if that is desirable.
- 4) Within each course section, 50% of the students will receive a digital version of the SCEQ, whereas the other 50% will receive the new SEEQ instrument.
- 5) All survey scores will be tabulated automatically; no personally identifying information will be retained.
- 6) After all grades are submitted for the fall semester, each instructor will receive a tabular and graphic summary of the results from each section as well as a follow-up survey to assess the instructor's experience.

7) The CEIC will compile the results of the pilot, analyze the responses and present a report to the Faculty Senate during the spring term 2016.

All eligible faculty will be receiving an email request. Thank you in advance for your help with this very important pilot!

Attachment

Cc: Provost P. Rous

Deans S. Casper, W. LaCourse, D. Lee, J. Ronch, J. Ross

Associate Dean C. Tice