

College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Faculty Senates
March 27, 2019
Submitted by Hyunju Chung

Present: Alan Baumeister (President/PSYC), Asiya Alam (HIST), Christina Armistead (ENGL), Hyunju Chung (COMD), Brigitte Delzell (French), Jamie Geer (FLL), Sherri Johnson (HIST), Matt Valasik (SOCL), Clay Weill (ENGL), Steve Greening (PSYC), Jennifer Davison (ENGL), Dorothy McCaughey (ENGL), Steven Namikas (GEOG+ANTH)

1. Introductions

2. Approval of minutes for February 2019

a. Approved

3. Old business

a. Setting guidelines for grade distributions

- Alan will meet with the Dean Blanchard to set up specific parameters and have written guidelines for the WFD policy.

b. Measuring teaching performance (Steve Greening, Scholarship and Teaching committee):

- Goal: create a novel set of questions that cover instructor evaluation, course evaluation, and contextualizes these with a question regarding the students' commitment to the course. Cannot be more questions than 11 (current), though we can identify a pool of extra/supplemental questions that an instructor can request be added.
- Background: teaching evaluation questions have been determined by the college and/or the department. Starting from this year, a new office (Testing and Evaluation Services) took over this job. This change makes it more challenging for questions to be revised. Any request might need to be submitted through the Faculty Senate level.
- Current issue:
 - HSS Admin is considering one question on instructor effectiveness (*Overall, the instructor was an effective teacher*). We would like to resist this and instead encourage that the mean/aggregate score from several questions from the instructor evaluation section be used for faculty evaluation. For example: "We think these five items reflect factors that make for an effective instructor." Possible to encourage HSS admin to compute the mean and then look at the descriptive for each measure and the correlation of the two? Also, some have noted that for some courses a N/A box is necessary.
 - Not all students complete teaching evaluation. We need to get the representative sample by considering student commitment/attendance or weight distribution (drawing answers from students of different grades). Jennifer Davison will research on what other universities do to get the representative sample from students.

- Other things to consider:
 - What are the ways to increase student compliance (e.g., not showing final grade until students submit their teaching evaluation)?
 - Class size & DFW rates (rate will be skewed for small classes)
- Next Step: Steve and Mike will work together to move further on this.
- Some ideas from the table:
 - Consider different ways to keep the high retention rate than using DFW rates from the instructor evaluation
 - One idea: some universities have a program for freshmen (e.g., set mentors for each freshman to help students settle in to a new school life. Such a program can be considered.
 - Dept of Biology LSU has similar program like this (science camp).

4. Adjourn. **Next Meeting: Fall 2019**