

Meeting Minutes

Faculty Senate Educational Policies Committee

November 4, 2019, 1:00-2:00 pm

Attended: Chunlei Liu, Meagan Arrastia-Chisholm, Steven Downey, Michael Holt, Sheri Gravett, Herbert Fiester, Krupesh Patel, Jose Velez, Nicole Alemanne, Ryan Hogan (also proxy for Stanley Jones), Joseph Mason

Summary

- Dr. Steven Downey introduced the reasons to modify the questions for VSU's SOI surveys, the research that studied the correlation of survey questions and student achievement, and the history of this work since 2015.
- In order to reduce the students' time to complete the SOI surveys, increase the response rate, and improve the effectiveness of the survey questions, the SOI sub-committee suggested reducing the number of survey questions and pick the most relevant questions.
- The committee discussed the general SOI process and the survey questions.
 - One question was asked about whether we should track students who maliciously use SOI to hurt, slander, or threaten people. Some people answered that if there are any physical threats or criminal messages, the company that hosts our surveys should have the ability to track who wrote them, but if the SOI comments are only rude, inaccurate, or untrue, then the company or VSU may not be willing to reveal the identities of these students. It is recommended that the Faculty Evaluation Committee design some guidelines for department chairs, deans and other school administrators to use the SOI results. SOI should not be regarded as completely reliable, or the only source of teaching evaluation.
 - Another question was asked about whether these SOI questions were tested and piloted. Dr. Downey answered that these questions come from current SOI surveys with minor changes and have been picked according to a survey of all VSU fulltime faculty (approximately 425) and a 27-faculty pilot study.
 - Some minor editing to the questions was suggested and made.
 - The SGA representative commented that the smaller list of questions will reduce the time that students spend on SOI and the combination of closed and open questions will capture most students' opinion on the course and instructor.
- All those who attended the meeting unanimously agreed to recommend the following list of seven questions to the whole Senate meeting for further discussion. The first four questions are about the course, and the latter three are about the instructor.
 1. Course was well organized.
 2. Course assignments were clearly explained in the syllabus or other materials.
 3. Course increased my knowledge of the subject.
 4. What suggestions do you have for improving the course? [open-ended]
 5. Rate the instructor's knowledge of the subject.
 6. Instructor's presentation of information was clear.
 7. What did the instructor do that most helped your learning? [open-ended]
- The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Minutes Submitted by: Chunlei Liu