Faculty Senate

M2020.21.18 Motion to Approve the Proposal to Conduct Review of Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE)

Originator: Academic Policies Standing Committee

Whereas,

On September 1, 2020, The Faculty Senate Executive Committee charged the Academic Policies Committee to review the University of Memphis Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE).

Be it resolved that,

The Faculty Senate approves the following actions proposed by the Academic Policies Standing Committee:

1. The Faculty Senate Academic Policies Committee's SETE Working Group (SWG) is to be composed of the following members:
   - Alena Allen (Associate Professor, School of Law)
   - Ryan Fisher (Associate Dean, College of Communication and Fine Arts, R. E. S. School of Music)
   - Eli Jones (Assistant Professor, Education Psychology and Research)
   - Abby Parrill-Baker (Dean, College of Art and Sciences)
   - Scott Van (Assistant Director of Digital Learning, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning)
   - Karen Weddle-West (VP Student Academic Success)
   - Mohamed Yeasin (Associate Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering)

   *Note: The chair of SWG will be named at the first meeting.

2. The SWG is hereby charged by the Academic Policies Standing Committee with revising the University of Memphis Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness according to this included but not limited set of guidelines:
   a. Design the Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness to provide meaningful feedback to faculty for improving teaching first and foremost rather than evaluating faculty performance.
   b. Provide explicit guidance on whether the mean score for each question for a course section is statistically significantly different from the mean of the entire set of sections, prefix, department, college means.
   c. Provide a section in which every department/college has the possibility to create and ask questions related to their own field and their own assessment of learning. In this section, questions should be more specific about course objectives, feedback, structure and organization.
   d. Provide two sets of evaluation, one for instructors teaching online (M50 courses), and one for instructors teaching face to face.

Motion Passed 11/17/2020
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e. Provide space for comments after each question.
f. Consider renaming the Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness to emphasize that students are not evaluating teaching effectiveness but their perception of teaching effectiveness.
g. Explore the feasibility of utilizing software that allows reports to be run by both instructors and administrators.
h. Ask questions related to diversity and inclusion.
i. Remove questions that are subjective and vague; for example, the questions that ask about whether the instructor was enthusiastic and interested in teaching.

3. The Faculty Senate Academic Policies Committee's SWG plan of action is to present a report with recommendations to the Senate Academic Policies Committee for review by March 2nd.

Recipients:
Faculty Senate
Tom Nenon, Provost
Helen Johnson, Office of the Provost

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Vote: 33 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain