

Technology Committee (TC)

Faculty Senate Technology Committee Minutes of meeting 11/3/2021

The meeting convened at 12:15 via WebEx. We were joined by SGA representative Kyle Mashia-Thaxton as a guest.

The discussion about Student Opinion Surveys continued.

Kyle relayed a concern from the SGA about whether data about the professor adhering to the midterm grading policy is collected. The survey contains a closely related item – “The instructor provided regular feedback on my performance in this course” – but does not expressly address midterm grades. We will take up this question at our ne3xt meeting. We then discussed the technological issue of whether faculty are taking full advantage of the capacity in BBL to keep a continuously updated grade record.

We moved on to consider incentives to improve the response rate for SOS’s. New information from the Senate President at Central indicates that we were mis-informed and Central does not use a financial incentive. Several members suggested that response rates could best be improved by ensuring that some time in class is made available for completing them. It was noted that the surveys can be readily completed on a smartphone. A concern was raised that asking students in a class to pull out their phones to do the survey might “out” an impoverished student who doesn’t have a phone. Our consensus was that an email from the Faculty Senate President should go out prior to the last week of classes encouraging faculty to make class time available for doing the surveys.

The discussion next turned to publicity and the state of the student body’s understanding of the importance of Student Opinion Surveys. Kyle volunteered that SGA may be able to put something on their social media to encourage/educate students about the surveys. We wondered to what extent INQ professors communicate the importance of the surveys.

Respectfully,
J. E. Fields