9 December 2015

RESOLUTION ON CONSIDERATION OF TEACHER EVALUATION INSTRUMENT CONTENT

Resolution:
The evaluation of teaching is a crucial dimension of professional assessment for faculty and it linked with the core mission of the College: the education of its students. In order for the data to be reliable and meaningful for all stakeholders and in alignment with other accountability and assessment measures implemented at Hunter College, the content, including closed ended and open-ended questions as well as the quantity and functionality of the questions needs to be re-examined. The committee resolves to use the current academic year, 2015-2016 to collaborate with other Senate committees, sample students and faculty, and create recommendations for modifying the teacher evaluation instrument content.

Explanation:
The evaluation of teaching has contained the same questions for many years. Some Hunter students have shared that the questions are too long, not relevant, vague, and do not capture the teaching and learning enterprise, as they experience it. This discourages participation. Moreover, with the advent of increased technology platforms, internal and external assessment requirements, there is a need to reconsider the actual content and number of the questions themselves so that it allows for both longitudinal data to be collected across campus and discrete data to be collected and used for relevant departmental needs. For example, in some Hunter College departments the evaluation of teaching data is used to determine whether or not to renew adjunct professors. This resolution announced the intention of the committee to evaluate the usefulness, alignment, transparency, and quantity of question content in order to make recommendations to the full Senate body, and calls on interested parties to participate in examination of best practices and possible revisions.

RESOLUTION ON INCREASING STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN THE EVALUATION OF TEACHING

Resolved:
In order to increase the response rate among the Hunter College student body to participate and complete the evaluation of teaching, the Senate supports the use of multiple mechanisms currently in place at Hunter College for reminding all students to complete the teaching evaluation instrument. These include, but are not limited to, One Stop on Hunter College's home page, e-blasts to students, LED signs throughout Hunter, encouraging Professors to announce it on their respective Blackboard sites, as well as any other mechanisms deemed appropriate by the Senate.

It is further resolved that, the Committee recommends the development of an Evaluation of Teaching App for easy access to the teaching evaluation instrument on mobile devices, to increase the likelihood that all students will complete teaching evaluations in a timely manner at the end of each course.

~~An example of what one could email their students could be;~~
~~"Thanks for a wonderful year. Please don't forget to submit the teacher evaluations. Here is a link for your computer or smartphones"~~
- ~~Smartphone: www.hunter.cuny.edu/mobilete~~
- ~~Computer: www.hunter.cuny.edu/te~~

Explanation:
In 2012, as part of an overall College strategy to move toward a more comprehensive use of technology throughout the CUNY system, Hunter College rolled out a technology platform for students to use in evaluating teaching each semester, and away from pencil/paper responses. Since implementation, this change has resulted in increasingly diminished response rates from a 70+% average response rate utilizing the paper instrument to a 35.9% response rate in spring 2013. A variety of factors contributed to this decline. The Committee on the Evaluation of Teaching has garnered input from students and faculty and has determined that the current technology communication and delivery systems in place have not been fully utilized to encourage student participation and response rate. Therefore, it's critical to consider ways to increase the response rate by using a variety of multi-media and other mechanisms that are currently in place and familiar to students in order for Hunter College to collect teaching evaluations from students. Therefore, the committee is recommending a two-prong approach: better communication and a more convenient and accessible means for delivering the survey.

The committee respectfully requests that the Senate accept these resolutions.