

**CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA  
POLICY NO: 1329**

**STUDENT EVALUATION OF TEACHING**

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The purpose of this document is to set forth the University policy and procedures on student evaluation of teaching performance. This policy is consistent with those of the Trustees of the CSU and with the provisions of the current Unit 3 (Faculty) Collective Bargaining Agreement. The guiding principles in establishing these policies and procedures are as follows:

- A. Evaluations by students are only one element to be considered by faculty evaluation committees in assessing the quality of teaching performance of colleagues. Other indexes of the quality of teaching performance include (i) direct observations by peers in classroom; (ii) judgments about the quality of instructional materials; (iii) judgment about the appropriateness of examinations and examination procedures, (iv) maintenance of academic standards, etc.
- B. If student evaluation programs for librarian faculty unit employees, counselor faculty unit employees, and coaching faculty unit employees are established, the evaluation process shall be developed by a committee comprised of faculty unit employees and appropriate administrators. (CBA 15.18)
- C. The department faculty is best prepared to judge the quality of teaching by peers.
- D. The department should be given the maximum possible latitude in collecting, assessing and reporting available information on teaching performance consistent with this policy.
- E. Administration of student evaluations shall ensure anonymity of the students participating in the evaluation process. The results of an evaluation shall not be made available to the faculty member being evaluated until after grades for the class have been submitted.
- F. Departmental procedures shall include safeguards which preclude tampering or other activities which may invalidate the results of the evaluation.
- G. Evaluation results should be delivered no later than the end of the second week of the following academic term subject to the provision under (E) above.
- H. All student evaluations shall be administered between the start of the 13<sup>th</sup> week and the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> week of the academic semester. There are two exceptions: One, when multiple instructors teach a class, the evaluation for each individual instructor shall take place during the last two weeks of the instructional period of each individual instructor. Two, when the duration of a course spans fewer than

15 weeks the evaluation shall take place during the last two weeks of the instructional period.

- I. There are two avenues by which students may submit their opinions of teaching performance: official student evaluations and out-of-class evaluation comments. Each of these avenues is addressed separately below (2.0 and 3.0).

### **1.0 Solicitation of Student Evaluations/Comments**

- 1.1** The only professional manner to solicit student opinion on teaching performance for the purpose of peer review is by posting a public announcement, or by publication of such, or by some other means designed to reach students collectively, not individually.
- 1.2** Any solicitation by a faculty member on his/her own behalf, or by a faculty member or administrator on behalf of or against another faculty member is considered unprofessional and is prohibited.
- 1.3** The person assigned the responsibility of administering an in-class course evaluation may stress the importance of participating in the process. To attempt to influence responses to the evaluation instrument is unethical and is prohibited.
- 1.4** A department chair or dean/director may, in response to an unsolicited oral comment from a student, advise the student that any formal consideration of the comment requires that it be reduced to a written, signed statement.

### **2.0 Out-of-Class Evaluation Comments**

At any time a student may submit a letter/petition expressing his/her opinion of the teaching performance of a faculty member. Such a letter/petition must be signed and addressed either to the chair of the appropriate department or to the chair of the appropriate departmental evaluation committee. The letter/petition must include the Bronco Identification Number of all student signators. The department chair/chair of the appropriate department evaluation committee must provide the faculty member with copies of such letters/petitions. The faculty member shall be allowed at least 10 calendar days to provide a rebuttal. Any rebuttal provided by the faculty members shall be attached to the original letter/petition and placed in the faculty member's Personnel Action File (PAF). Letters/petitions received as the result of appropriate solicitations by the evaluation committee (Section 3.2 of Policy 1328 of the University Manual) may be collected and presented as a group to the faculty member.

### **3.0 Official Student Evaluation of Teaching**

All student evaluation summary sheets shall become part of the faculty member's Personnel Action File.

### **3.1 Frequency of Official Student Evaluation**

- 3.1.1 Student questionnaire evaluations are required for all faculty unit employees who teach (CBA 15.15).
- 3.1.2 All classes taught by each faculty unit employee shall be evaluated (CBA 15.15). Courses that were not subject to student evaluation by a department prior to Winter Quarter 2013 shall continue to be exempt. Low enrollment class sections (5 or less students) shall also be exempt from this requirement, unless the department by a majority vote of its probationary and tenured faculty members establishes a department policy to evaluate such classes or any other department courses. The department policy may be reviewed and changed by the department on an annual basis by spring term and revisions would apply the following Academic Year. Course evaluation requirements apply equally to probationary, tenured and temporary faculty.

Departments by a majority vote of the probationary and tenured faculty members may submit to the President or her/his designee (CBA 15.15) a request to have fewer classes evaluated and shall include the reasons for the request. If the request is granted fewer classes would be evaluated. Approvals for such requests will be effective for a maximum of five years, subject to renewal.

- 3.1.3 In special circumstances, a faculty member may request an exemption from having his/her classes evaluated in a certain term. This exemption is restricted to conditions interfering with teaching such as prolonged illness, jury duty, maternity/paternity leave, or other events that could significantly affect the faculty member's attendance to his/her assigned classes. The faculty member may make this request to the department chair who, in consultation with the tenured faculty of the department, shall make a recommendation to the President or her/his designee who shall make the final decision regarding the exemption request.

### **3.2 The Evaluation Instruments**

- 3.2.1 The probationary and tenured faculty of each department or equivalent unit shall design the instruments for official student evaluation. Instruments appropriate to the content, method of instruction, and learning objectives of the course shall be designed by the department. Therefore, there can be more than one instrument used for official student evaluation in a department. Departments are encouraged to ensure that evaluation instruments are reliable and valid for the purpose of collecting data for summative evaluation of faculty. The Faculty Center for Professional Development can provide resources and consultation to this end and faculty are urged to contact the center when developing evaluation instruments.
- 3.2.2 The instruments shall be in the form of a questionnaire, responses to which are quantifiable such that a numerical summary can be interpreted in relative terms ("excellent", "good", etc.).

- 3.2.3 The instruments shall *not* provide for written student comments. However, outside the official student evaluation process, student opinion may be a source of information for faculty members in making regular assessments of their own teaching performance.

The instruments may be designed for in-class evaluation and administered to an assembled class or for online distant evaluation of the class through the Internet.

### **3.3 Conduct of the Student Evaluations**

Online student evaluations shall be used only for classes that are designated asynchronous local, synchronous local, fully asynchronous, or fully synchronous. Procedures for conducting in-class and online student evaluations should be developed consistent with the following policies.

- A. A brief procedure statement shall be written and approved by each department. For in-class evaluation, the statement shall be distributed or read in class when the student evaluations are conducted. For online evaluation, the statement shall be displayed on the course homepage for a sufficient duration of time prior to the conduct of the survey questionnaire.
- B. The process shall ensure that the evaluation form designated by the department for the class is used for evaluation of the class.
- C. Each in-class evaluation shall be conducted by a person other than the faculty member being evaluated. To ensure the confidentiality of the process, the completed in-class evaluation instruments shall be delivered in a closed and sealed envelope to a location and/or person designated by the department chair.
- D. All evaluations shall ensure that each student can only complete one survey and that students are not allowed to alter their responses after submission.
- E. The process shall produce a numerical summary of the evaluation results showing frequency distribution of responses by category. Printed copies of the summary results shall be produced. One copy of the summary results shall be delivered to the department chair. One copy of the summary results together with the student response to each question in print or electronic form shall be delivered to the faculty member.
- F. For online evaluation, a secured electronic file containing the responses by each student participating in the survey shall be prepared and delivered to the faculty member.
- G. The process shall collect aggregate data on response rate to the survey and report the percentage of the students enrolled in the class who completed the survey on the summary sheet described in (E) above.

### **3.4 Analysis of the Results of Official Student Evaluations**

- 3.4.1 The analysis of the official student evaluations shall consist of a *summary* of the results of the evaluation(s) and an *interpretation* of the results prepared by the department evaluation committee.
- 3.4.2 The summary of the official student evaluations shall be numerical. A computer printout showing frequency distribution of responses to questions by category ("excellent", "good", etc.) shall suffice as the numerical summary.
- 3.4.3 The evaluation committee's interpretation of the results of the student evaluation for evaluation of faculty performance shall be a written statement, prepared by the department evaluation committee based on the summaries, which identifies the level of performance in terms of departmental standards of expectation. The interpretation shall be an explicit statement which conveys the committee's opinion of the meaning of the summaries upon which it is based. Departmental committees are urged to strive to use best practices in interpreting student evaluation data to create their statements. The Faculty Center for Professional Development can provide resources and consultation to this end.
- 3.4.4 Interpretation of the results of student evaluations for evaluation of the faculty performance is the responsibility of the appropriate department evaluation committee. Evaluation committee members must not participate in the interpretation of their own evaluations.
- 3.4.5 The department evaluation committee may develop a composite interpretation of the summaries prepared over the period of time since the last peer evaluation, or it may prepare an interpretation for each class evaluated. In the case of a composite interpretation, the statement must include a list by course/section/term taught of those evaluations being considered.

### **3.5 Disposition of Analysis**

- 3.5.1 No analysis or other evaluation material shall be given to a faculty member before grades for the class evaluated have been submitted.
- 3.5.2 The analyses of results of all official student evaluations shall be placed in the PAF of the affected faculty member. A faculty member shall not have the option to choose those analyses to be placed in his/her PAF.
- 3.5.3 The faculty member shall be provided a copy of the analyses before they are placed in the PAF; he/she may rebut any summary or interpretation, or make any comment upon the results of the evaluation within seven days after receiving a copy of the results. Any rebuttal or comment submitted must also be placed in the PAF.

- 3.54 Normally only the analysis of the results of evaluations shall be physically placed in the PAF.
- 3.55 Original copies of questionnaires for in-class evaluations and the electronic file of student responses for online evaluations become the property of the faculty member evaluated.

### **3.6 Use of the Analyses**

The analyses of the results of student evaluation of teaching serve as one of the elements by which peer review committees evaluate the quality of teaching performance. They are a source of information contained in the PAF available to RTP committees, post-tenure review committees, temporary faculty review committees, and other committees of tenured faculty charged with recommending actions based in part or wholly upon teaching performance.