

IUSB Senate Teaching Committee Meeting Minutes

October 30, 2020 4:00pm via Zoom

Attending: Ni Chang, Maryann Oake, Carolyn Schult, Kyle Schwieterman, Liguu Yu and Barbara Mociulski

Not in Attendance: Warren Shrader, Ann Grens

Discussion Items:

1. Minutes from 2020-10-02 Meeting—approved

2. Update on Advocacy for permanent Director of Online Education at IU South Bend:

Doug McMillan has been serving as interim director. Linda Chen/Academic Affairs now seeks a faculty member to serve as permanent Director of Online Learning, to start January 4, 2021.

Academic Affairs posted this position on October 27, 2020.

Deadline for receipt of applications is November 20, 2020.

Teaching Committee thinks this is a positive step for helping online courses and degree programs.

3. Item #1, from Executive Committee:

Executive Committee requests guidance from us on development of additional, personalized eXplorance Blue questions for Fall 2020, addressing the online course format many have adopted this fall during the Covid-19 pandemic. These questions would be shared with faculty, who could then consider including them as personalized questions.

In advance of today's meeting, Kyle shared a recent document from Santa Clara U on student feedback of online courses—including a list of evaluation questions categorized under **Interaction/Communication, Learning, General Satisfaction and Flexibility**. Maryann shared a list of online student evaluation questions from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Committee members reviewed these questions and used them as a springboard for discussion. The USC categories of Interaction/Communication and Learning (and questions within each) were highlighted as relevant, and various edits were considered, resulting in this suggested set of questions:

Interaction/Communication (Scale Disagree to Strongly Agree)

2. [Online learning modules, tools, discussions, etc.] allowed me to share ideas with other students on a regular basis
3. Sharing and discussion in the online environment worked well
3. The instructor offered opportunities for interaction and communication
4. The technology used in this class allowed me to participate at least as fully as I would have done in a classroom-only class

Learning (Scale Disagree to Strongly Agree)

1. I clearly understood the online components and structure of the course
2. Online learning modules helped me understand the course material
3. Online testing was a good way to evaluate my understanding of the material
4. [Recorded lectures, videos, PDFs, etc.] helped my understanding of the material in this course
5. Online assignments or activities were helpful in understanding the course content
6. The online components of this course worked well to promote learning

Emphasis on assessing student learning was felt to be key. In addition to scaled questions, inclusion of open-ended questions that allow faculty to request specific feedback is an option.

4. Item #2, from Executive Committee:

Executive Committee requests our consideration and possible recommendation on the following: at the most recent UFC Executive Committee meeting, the IU Bloomington campus raised the possibility of once again allowing circulation of student evaluations to be optional, as they were for Spring 2020, and as we continue to shift more courses to online formats during this pandemic. Views were apparently mixed—some felt faculty were still struggling to deliver material they never planned to teach on-line (this seemingly and primarily from IUB); in contrast, others felt regional campuses more-experienced with online formats, and at IUSB, excellently-supported by UCET.

We are to consider and make a recommendation on the option of individual faculty choice to share Fall 2020 eXplorance Blue reports.

Discussion followed, including review of comments offered by several faculty during the October 23rd Senate meeting in support of this option. It was noted, though, that overall not many faculty spoke up during Senate on this issue. In our discussion, concerns were voiced about potential ramifications for junior faculty of not including reports, and that thoughtful faculty reflections on reports are key. Carolyn recalled that a faculty survey had been conducted on this issue last spring that we might review or even offer again, but decision was made not to survey at this time.

Also mentioned was the on-going campus conversation about the usefulness of teaching evaluations generally, though recognizing value in hearing student voices in consideration of teaching and faculty reflection on those voices.

Ultimately, we decided to support the proposal to give individual faculty the optional to share one's Fall 2020 eXplorance Blue course evaluations. The Teaching Committee will make a motion before the Senate on November 20th to give individual faculty the option to not share one's Fall 2020 course evaluations and to exclude these evaluations from consideration in promotional processes, the Annual Report, and in consideration of merit pay or teaching awards.

Action List for Items 3 & 4:

Email committee members for any final comments regarding either issue we intend to bring to the Senate on 11-20 —deadline for comments is Wednesday, 11-4.

Deadline is November 6th for requesting a spot on the November 20th Senate Agenda where committee will a) share suggested eXplorance Blue questions and b) present motion for the optional inclusion of eXplorance Blue student evaluations to be shared beyond the instructor for Fall 2020.

Next scheduled meeting: November 20 at 3 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5pm.