

To: College of Charleston Faculty Senate
From: Faculty Educational Technology Committee (FETC)
Re: Recommendation on Online Course Evaluations
Date: 24 March 2008

Recommendation

1. The FETC recommends that the Senate support the implementation of an online course evaluation system as an **optional** method for evaluating courses that may be used at faculty discretion.
2. Faculty may choose to offer students paper or online evaluations.
3. For the purposes of tenure and promotion or merit evaluation, online course evaluations have been shown to be equivalent based on pilot data collected in the fall of 2007.
4. This optional online course evaluation system will be implemented and reevaluated after one year by the Faculty Senate.
5. There will be no positive or negative incentives offered to students to complete the online evaluations.

While the FETC values the intent and purpose of the College's course evaluation system, the current paper-and-pencil delivery system has a number of weaknesses that may be addressed by an online delivery system.

The physical and technical resources necessary to implement an online evaluation system have improved substantially since the FETC was initially assigned to investigate the feasibility of adopting online course evaluations in 2005. Additionally, a pilot experiment conducted in the fall of 2007 demonstrated the viability of an online system implemented through Digital Measures.

An online delivery system can provide additional formative and summative data that are unavailable in a paper-based system. These data will ultimately benefit faculty, students and the institution.

Presented by the 2007-2008 FETC members (* indicates returning members from the 2006-2007 committee):

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*Jannette Finch, North Campus, Library, Co-chair
Maria Colomina-Garrigos , Hispanic Studies
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