



STUDENT EVALUATION OF TEACHING (SEOT) WORKING GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

BACKGROUND

Student evaluations of teaching were first mentioned in Senate minutes in 1974 and a Vancouver Senate Policy on Student Evaluation of Teaching has been in place since May 2007. The implementation of the Vancouver Policy is overseen by a Committee of Associate Deans, faculty and students and has deliberately maintained a data focus. In parallel, SEoT processes were implemented at UBC Okanagan in 2005 (when it opened) and procedures at Okanagan largely mirror those of Vancouver. The Okanagan campus adopts a related approach but uses different standard questions.

SEoT continues to be a topic of intense debate within Higher Education, amplified by recent arbitration decisions at other Canadian institutions. It is timely to review literature, data and processes to determine that the University is using the best instrument and the right metrics.

The Senate Teaching and Learning Committee (Vancouver campus) has requested a Working Group of primarily faculty and students be formed to review SEoT. Parallel conversations around the idea of what constitutes excellence in teaching at UBCO and the implications for SEoT have taken place on the Okanagan campus. This cross campus working group is tasked with surveying the recent SEoT literature, to review the University Module Items (UMI) in light of the data and the literature, and with input from the University community, develop a common report with appropriate metrics, for use by faculty members and senior academic administrators. The Working Group will also advise on additional hypotheses to be tested and/or analyses to be completed, to further test for potential biases in UBC data.

REMIT

The Working Group will:

1. Interrogate anonymized UBC data, to determine if there is evidence of potential biases.
2. Review and assess the recent literature on the effectiveness of SEoT, with particular reference to potential sources of bias in evaluations.
3. Review the University questions (UMI) used in SEoT in light of the data and available literature, recommending changes where appropriate.
4. Propose recommendations for appropriate metrics, effective analysis and presentation of data to support SEoT as a component of teaching evaluation.
5. Consider the implications any proposed changes may have on other components of teaching evaluation.

MEMBERSHIP

The Committee will comprise faculty and student members, but will consult broadly and make use of 'resource experts': individuals across UBC with particular expertise (e.g. in depth of knowledge of the literature, measurement and evaluation, quantitative analysis etc). Dual-campus representation will enable effective conversations on both campuses with relevant stakeholder groups and committees.



Chairs: Dan Pratt, Emeritus Professor of Education and Senior Scholar, CHES (Vancouver)
Peter Arthur, Professor of Teaching, Okanagan School of Education, (Okanagan).

Members: Farshid Agharebparast, Sr Instructor, Electrical & Computer Engineering (Vancouver)
Vanessa Auld, Associate Dean, Science & Professor, Zoology (Vancouver)
Barb Dawson, Undergraduate student, FCCS (Okanagan)
Jennifer Jakobi, Associate Professor, School of Health and Exercise Sciences (Okanagan)
Jennifer Love, Sr Advisor to the Provost, Women Faculty & Professor, Chemistry (Vancouver)
Minelle Mahtani, Sr Advisor to Provost, Racialized Faculty & Associate Professor, GRSJ (Vancouver)
Catherine Rawn, Sr Instructor, Psychology (Vancouver)
John Ries, Associate Dean, Sauder School (Vancouver)
Deborah Roberts, Professor, School of Engineering (Okanagan)
Amber Shilling, Graduate student, Faculty of Education
Katja Thieme, Instructor, Vantage College, Department of English (Vancouver)
Caitlin Young, Undergraduate student, Faculty of Arts (Vancouver)

Provost: Simon Bates, Associate Provost, Teaching & Learning (Vancouver)

Support: Christina Hendricks, Academic Director, CTLT (Vancouver)
Stephanie McKeown, Chief Institutional Research Officer
Peter Newbury, Director, CTL and Senior Advisor for Learning Initiatives, Office of the Provost (Okanagan)
Marianne Schroeder, Senior Associate Director, Teaching and Learning Technologies, CTLT (Vancouver)
Abdel Azim Zumrawi, Statistician CTLT (Vancouver)

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

- The engagement strategy will include:
 - Broad electronic communication (including electronic methods for input)
 - Peer to peer consultation for input through established groups; interrogation of data (if possible) and report back
 - Town Hall(s) for input and/or to test output
 - External perspectives (e.g. from peer institutions, published authors in this area)
 - Draft paper provided for broad input and feedback
 - Final paper and implementation

REPORTING PROCESS AND TIMELINE

- Regular reports into Senate committees as part of regular meeting agendas.
- Interim report to Vancouver and Okanagan Senates in May 2019, with a full report during the 2019-20 academic session.