

September 18, 2017

**To: Tim Gallagher, Chair, Faculty Council**  
**From: Matt Hickey, Chair, Committee on Teaching and Learning**  
**Subject: Appropriate Uses of the ASCSU Student Course Survey**

The Committee on Teaching and Learning submits the following motion:

MOVED, THAT SECTION E.12.1 OF THE *ACADEMIC FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL MANUAL*, BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

Deletions ~~Overscored~~ Additions Underlined

**E.12.1 Teaching and Advising** (~~last revised August 2, 2013~~)

As part of its mission, the University is dedicated to undergraduate, graduate, professional, and continuing education locally, nationally, and internationally. Toward that end teachers engage learners, transfer knowledge, develop skills, create opportunities for learning, advise, and facilitate students' transfer of knowledge across contexts and their academic and professional development.

Teaching includes, but is not limited to, classroom and/or laboratory instruction; individual tutoring; supervision and instruction of student researchers; clinical teaching; field work supervision and training; preparation and supervision of teaching assistants; service learning; outreach/engagement; and other activities that organize and disseminate knowledge. Faculty members' supervision or guidance of students in recognized academic pursuits that do not confer any University credit also is considered teaching. Associated teaching activities include class preparation; grading; laboratory or equipment maintenance; preparation and funding of proposals to improve instruction; attendance at workshops on teaching improvement; and planning of curricula and courses of study; and mentoring colleagues in any of these activities. Outreach/engagement activities such as service learning, conducting workshops, seminars, and consultations, and the preparation of educational materials for those purposes, may be integrated into teaching efforts. These outreach activities include teaching efforts of faculty members with Extension appointments.

Excellent teachers are characterized by their command of subject matter; logical organization and presentation of course material; ability to help students recognize formation of interrelationships among fields of knowledge; energy and enthusiasm; availability to help students outside of class; encouragement of curiosity, creativity, and critical thought; engagement of students in the learning process; understanding of how students learn and encouragement of effective learning strategies; use of clear grading criteria; and respectful responses to student questions and ideas.

Departments shall foster a culture that values and recognizes excellent teaching, and encourages reflective self-assessment. To that end, departmental codes ~~should~~ will, within

the context of their disciplines, (1) define effective teaching and (2) describe the process and criteria for evaluating teaching effectiveness. Evaluation of teaching should be designed to highlight strengths, identify deficiencies, and improve teaching and learning. Evaluation criteria of teaching can include, but are not limited to, quality of curriculum design; quality of instructional materials; achievement of student learning outcomes; and effectiveness at presenting information, managing class sessions, encouraging student engagement and critical thinking, and responding to student work. Evaluation of teaching ~~shall~~ must involve substantive review of multiple sources of information such as course syllabi; signed peer evaluations; examples of course improvements; development of new courses and teaching techniques; integration of service learning; ~~appropriate course surveys of teaching and/or~~ summaries of how the instructor used information from student feedback to improve course design or instructional delivery, as well as any evidence of the outcomes of such improvements; letters, electronic mail messages, and/or other forms of written comments from current and/or former students; and evidence of the use of active and/or experiential learning, student learning achievement, professional development related to teaching and learning, and assessments from conference/workshop attendees. Anonymous letters or comments shall not be used to evaluate teaching, except with the consent of the instructor or as authorized in a department's code. Evaluation of teaching ~~effectiveness~~ effectiveness should take into account the physical and curricular context in which teaching occurs (e.g., face-to-face and online settings; lower-division, upper-division, and graduate courses), established content standards and expectations, and the faculty member's teaching assignments, in particular in the context of the type and level of courses taught. The ~~University~~ University provides resources to support the evaluation of ~~teaching~~ teaching effectiveness, such as systems to create and assess teaching portfolios, access to exemplary teaching portfolios, and professional development programs focusing on teaching and learning.

Effective advising of students, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, is a vital part of the teaching/learning process. Advising activities include, but are not limited to, meeting with students to explain graduation requirements; giving academic advice; giving career advice or referring the student to the appropriate person for that advice; and supervision of or assistance with graduate student theses/dissertations/projects. Advising is characterized by being available to students, keeping appointments, providing accurate and appropriate advice, and providing knowledgeable guidance. Evaluation of advising effectiveness can be based upon signed evaluations from current and/or former students, faculty members, and professional peers. The faculty in each academic unit shall develop specific criteria and standards for evaluation and methods for evaluating teaching and advising effectiveness and shall evaluate advising as part of annual and periodic comprehensive reviews. These criteria, standards, and methods shall be incorporated into departmental codes.

### **Rationale:**

The proposed changes to the language incorporate recommendations from the 2015 TILT/UDTS Task Force Report on Teaching and Learning and are consonant with proposed

change to the language in the Faculty Manual in section I.8 that addresses student course evaluations. Providing coherent guidance in both I.8 and E.12.1 of the Faculty Manual on the appropriate use of student course surveys will help to ensure that information gathered through them will not constitute the sole or primary basis for judging teaching effectiveness. Making this change in policy will help lead departments to adopt evaluation strategies that can support fairer and more accurate evaluations than is possible through use of student course survey results alone.