

Sent on behalf of the Provost, the President of the Faculty Senate, and the President of the UFF-FGCU Chapter:

Last spring after extensive consultation of all stakeholders, we introduced upcoming changes to the way student input into the evaluation of teaching effectiveness would occur http://www.fgcu.edu/planning/spoi/pdfs/April11_SPol.pdf. During the coming year, the Student Assessment of Instruction (SAI) will be transformed with your input from a largely *paper-based summative evaluation* of instruction into a ***totally online formative assessment***, the Student Perception of Instruction (SPoI). As of fall 2013 with few exceptions for non-standard teaching formats virtually all student assessment of instruction will occur in the online format only. The new system of SPoI will be introduced in fall 2014.

An anticipated concern with the transition to the SPoI is the impact the change could have on those seeking promotion. We have worked collaboratively to ensure that the transition to the new formative assessment of teaching effectiveness utilizing student perceptions will remain neutral to the promotion process while enhancing the feedback faculty will receive from students. Extensive work to ensure this is highlighted below. It is important to keep in mind that those who will be seeking promotion this coming academic year may continue to use SAI results in their portfolios as has been past practice.

To accomplish this change a steering committee comprising the Provost, the President of the Faculty Senate, and the President of the UFF-FGCU Chapter will oversee the work of ad hoc committees and committees whose structures are already in place (i.e., Faculty Senate committees). The Committees will be charged with but not limited to the following tasks: 1) new instruments for gathering student perceptions; 2) modifications to College and Senate documents governing the use of student perception data in the evaluation of teaching effectiveness; and, 3) the development of training workshops/protocols to assist faculty, department chairs, college promotion review committees, and deans to implement the new SPoI process.

The transformation will begin with the online administration of SAI conducted this fall 2013 and spring 2014. You will have the option of developing and adding up to ten questions of your own. The process for how this will proceed will be communicated to you in the near future via email and the SAI Webpage <http://www.fgcu.edu/planning/StudentAssessment/> through the Office of Planning and Institutional Performance. Evaluations occurring spring 2014 may incorporate results of these last rounds of SAI under conditions to be determined during the current academic year.

With the direct support of the Provost's Office, the first working group of faculty and administrators to be chaired by Professor Linda Serro, Director of the Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Initiative will focus on the tasks of developing new instruments geared toward gathering student perceptions to be used for formative purposes. Another working group to be led by Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs, Tony Barringer will work with the college faculties and their administrations to effect appropriate changes in college documents and the Faculty Senate FPED. Faculty participation on these working groups will be coordinated through the Faculty Senate. In the remote event that a proposed change has the potential to affect the UFF contract, such a potential change to the CBA will be bargained with the UFF through normal channels to ensure consensus before implementation.

As we begin this change, our goal is to have instrument and document changes completed over the next five months. Furthermore, training workshops and protocols for implementation will be designed collaboratively and delivered in spring 2014.

A most important component of this change is communication. Therefore, communication to all stakeholders will characterize this change process over the coming year. The SPoI Webpage <http://www.fgcu.edu/planning/spoi/> will provide further updates from each of the working groups, regular progress reports will be delivered at Faculty Senate meetings, and emails such as this will be disseminated periodically as circumstances dictate.

The implementation of the SPoI is an innovative approach for using student input to enhance teaching and learning which is completely in line with FGCU's focus on student-centered learning. We look forward with your help and continued support; this will become another model example to bring forward this change in the spirit of shared governance and mutual benefit to all stakeholders.

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Shawn Felton
President Faculty Senate

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