

Point of information:

Members of the Executive committee offer a follow-up to last month's discussion of student evaluations. One of the issues that was raised in discussions was the issue of student participation. Since switching to online evaluations, participation rates have been very low. We would like to suggest that all faculty consider trying one (or both) of the following tactics to help improve student participation:

1. **Devote 5 - 10 minutes of class time** and ask students to complete evaluations on their phone/tablets/laptop/misc. electronic device. This option would essentially mimic the paper and pencil evaluation method.
2. **Offer the students an incentive of your choice** if a certain percentage of the class completes the evaluations by the end date. For example, the entire class may receive extra credit on the final exam or project if you get a 90% response rate. As another idea, you could pro-rate the extra credit. If you get a 50% response rate, everyone gets 1 point; 75% response rate gets everyone 2 points; 90% response rate gets everyone 3 points.

If all of us (or many of us) give this a try for fall and spring semesters this year, we can re-visit the issue once we have an idea of how well it works. Senate Executive committee will keep a [confidential](#) record of whether or not and how faculty choose to employ these tactics. We will collect response rate data after the Spring 2016 semester and see how it compares to the previous few years. If we feel that these methods are moving us in the right direction, we will then ask the Academic Chairs Council to take up the issue of how student evaluation data are used in faculty evaluations.