

Associated Students of Colorado State University

Forty-Fourth Senate

Twenty Eighth Session

April 29, 2015

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Gallery Input
- V. Consent Agenda
 - 4.22.2015 Minutes
- VI. Guest Speakers
 - Committee of Teaching and Learning: We have recently been looking into the course survey. It doesn't fulfill the function we thought it would. We will have a presentation outlining the issues and what I would like to get at is we think as the students as one of the stakeholders in this process. We would like to hear from you if you want to be a part of this redesign. This is a process and we have a timeline of one year. We want to hear feedback. I don't know how many of you have been involved with the revisions in the past but I assume you want to know about the course surveys and it's been around for decades. First of all, this is part of a campus wide emphasis that faculty and administration is carrying on to look at student success. While some people think the course survey is the core evaluation of teaching, many of us do not think that is true and think this plays a role in determining that overall. Administrators have a mandate from the board to improve success rates. Various places on campus like TILT is focused on improving the quality of teaching. You are the student voice while we focus on the faculty side of things. We may be making changes with faculty manual, etc. Let's focus on the survey now. This is part of the bigger picture. The survey is a paper form you get at the end of the semesters. There are 4 or 6 versions of the survey. That causes issues. There's questions about the classrooms, course, teacher, and how students interact with the teacher. That's where we are at. There are a bunch of issues. I sit here and say every year I turn in a report and get evaluated by my chair. He uses one question to evaluate how I do as a teacher. According to the faculty manual, that's not allowed to be done. We have been in our committee assessing this survey and some people that study how quality surveys are done, there are all kinds of logistical problems

with it. It is known that female teachers are rated more negatively than men on the same issues. Reliability can change your responses. Validity: is it measuring what we think it measures? We want this to measure teaching quality. It is shown that the quality of the teacher is correlated with the quality of the classroom and that doesn't measure what we want to be measured. We would like higher response rates than what we get. Cost: to start, students paid for all of this and has now transitioned to students paying for part of it. Right now the testing center scans it and covers it and there isn't budget to cover that. Two years ago when we revised this, we covered some issues but it didn't tap into experts on design. In reality, there are scientific best practices that should be followed and this time we said we should do this right instead of quickly. We are trying to propose this to faculty council to get experts to look at this and experts on teaching effectiveness to look at this and we want a more professional, less bias survey that does a better job. We need an open process and inclusive process. We need student involvement to take care of the issues we are seeing with this. It needs to be used for its intended purpose. If an instrument isn't designed for that purpose, we need to make sure it's used in its proper way. As we have talked about this, we have said we have 3 options. 1) Continue with what we are doing. 2) Do what we have done before and revise, tweak, and edit it. 3) The real option to do is to get professionals on survey development to see what everyone wants to learn from it and get professionals to do that. We have presented this idea to faculty council and have a department on campus that focuses on survey development. What we hope is that over the next year, we will involve people across campus to do a better development of this survey to serve the correct purpose. What kind of feedback do you have so it's done right?

i. Seel: 3 things come to mind. 1) If you would be able to tie survey completion to grade received to be able to see your grades and 2) looking at long term potential surveys and 3) for students having more validation that these evaluations are consistently used to have excellence. Have you considered these?

1. 1: The tie to grades and response rate, I think that's a great idea but there is this idea that your grade is tied to your response. The long term change and use is one of our core goals that we want to make this more continuous improvements. That should be an emphasis. The last one is a hard one. It goes to the heart of what we do on the campus. It seems to be this intimacy between a professor and student that share a piece of life together. A student has a desire to have an influence on the teaching of this class. I have yet to meet a faculty

member that doesn't read their comments. The heart of what we do brings some emotional reactions.

2. 2: Our goal is to be transparent and encourage response rate and we hope that by explaining why it benefits you and faculty, it will enhance response rate and show how this will be beneficial for everyone.
- ii. Silver: You mentioned the cost, would it be possible to have an online survey and using the incentive of a grade would make it greener?
 1. 1: We are asking for a budget from the provost's office. There are issues with that, internet reception, response rate, and confidentiality. We will be thinking about that.
- iii. Goldstone: Have you looked into repetition of the survey to give it more than one time to take care of validity and reliability?
 1. 1: If we do this online, the cost won't go up too much. It has been mentioned and that feeds back to the issue to see this is being used to do something over time.
- iv. King: One thing I see about moving forward about gathering input is to push this PowerPoint out to publish with the minutes of tonight's session with a survey and anonymous text box to get ideas. Another thing with bubbles, when I see bubbles, I am most likely to just fill them out. If there were 3 or 4 questions, it would be a lot more credible and expand possibilities.
 1. 1: Yeah, we need to know what you guys want out of it from your side.
 2. King: I think sending out a survey would help pull the groups out of the weeds.
 3. 1: I would encourage you to get as much input as you can. We want to be inclusive and open and transparent.
 4. 2: Our contact information is on here.
- v. Bondi: what do you believe the purpose is of the survey?
 1. 1: For the faculty member? Or faculty as part of the system? If I teach a class, I want to hear what you liked and hated about this class. We are now talking about in the broadest perspective and the administration misuses this survey because it's easy to pick out one question and focus on those results. We want more aggregate questions. We see our task force as the facility to get people on campus to put their brains together.

2. 2: Our survey has the intent to give instructors feedback and to get students feedback of knowledge about the course and how it will be used in the future to give to department heads.
- vi. Wester: Is there any way we could look at a bubble sheet to publish the results with statistics?
 1. 1: Yes but right now they take the numerical answers and they are available to students. The comments are not. They need to be aware of the ability to use this.
- vii. Sydoriak: I can assure you that you will have student input from ASCSU. Throwing some ideas at you. What about attaching it to a participation grade to make it open for a week long and then close it then?
 1. 1: That's a good idea. We need to get on top of people who develop Canvas and that would be a good idea for us. Then we don't have to develop our own app.
 2. Sydoriak: Also, I know you're approaching those who develop surveys but have you contacted someone to note that hold values out of questions?
 - a. 1: No I have not yet but shoot me an email. We are trying to get names and contact info.
- viii. Seel: Kevin Nolan and Melody you can talk to about Canvas. For ASCSU, in what capacity are you looking for us to create our own committee and work with you? Or what are you looking for?
 1. 1: We want a committee from you to collect information and we would invite a member to be on the task force to get information from you. We are trying to do the same thing with the faculty. That person would be important to be involved with us. We intend to have monthly interactions about where we are at on this process.

VII. Ratification & Swearing in of New Members

- Clayton King, Associate Senator

VIII. Executive Reports

- Pasillas: Next Monday, we will have State Of Kind on campus and this is through diversity. Today they gave out energy bars and things. We will be doing the same thing Monday. I will send a signup sheet around to help volunteer. They sent us these cool stickers that you can have.
- Maher: May Day is this Friday. I have all of you signed up on the sheet. I will read off what you will be doing. This will be emailed out and posted in the office.
- Block: Next week I have something coming up that I want senate support on.

IX. Judicial Reports

- Jordan: There was a request for an opinion file that we will deliberate on tomorrow if anyone has an opinion you can submit that before 8pm tomorrow and the question is whether you can sponsor a bill you wrote.

X. Senator Reports

- Seel: If you or anyone you know is interested in senate officer positions, can you give me your name so I can get information to you?
- Ozekin: We elected our new officers for next year. We are doing our graduation speakers next week.
- Silver: We elected our new officers. Natural Resources day went well.
- Seel: Engineering did elections. Practically, I now have almost a completely current list of college councils. For next year, let me know and I will give you access to that.
- Lee: Liberal Arts elected a new chair president, Spencer Nolan and our treasurer is Pranaya Sathe.
- King: We had an application for some funds we are looking at for history club.

XI. Associate Senator Reports

- Bondi: Our elections will be this coming Monday. I had the intentions of a bill coming to the floor tonight and will be continuing conversation so we don't lose this valuable time window.

XII. Confidence Business

XIII. Committee Reports

- Internal Affairs
 - i. Seel: We didn't have a meeting and didn't have any new bills. We will look over some amendments tomorrow.
- External Affairs
 - i. Reinhart: We didn't have quorum.
- University Issues
 - i. Ozekin: This week we were sent King's resolution but will talk about it next week.

XIV. Old Business

XV. New Business

XVI. Announcements

XVII. Roll Call

XVIII. Adjournment