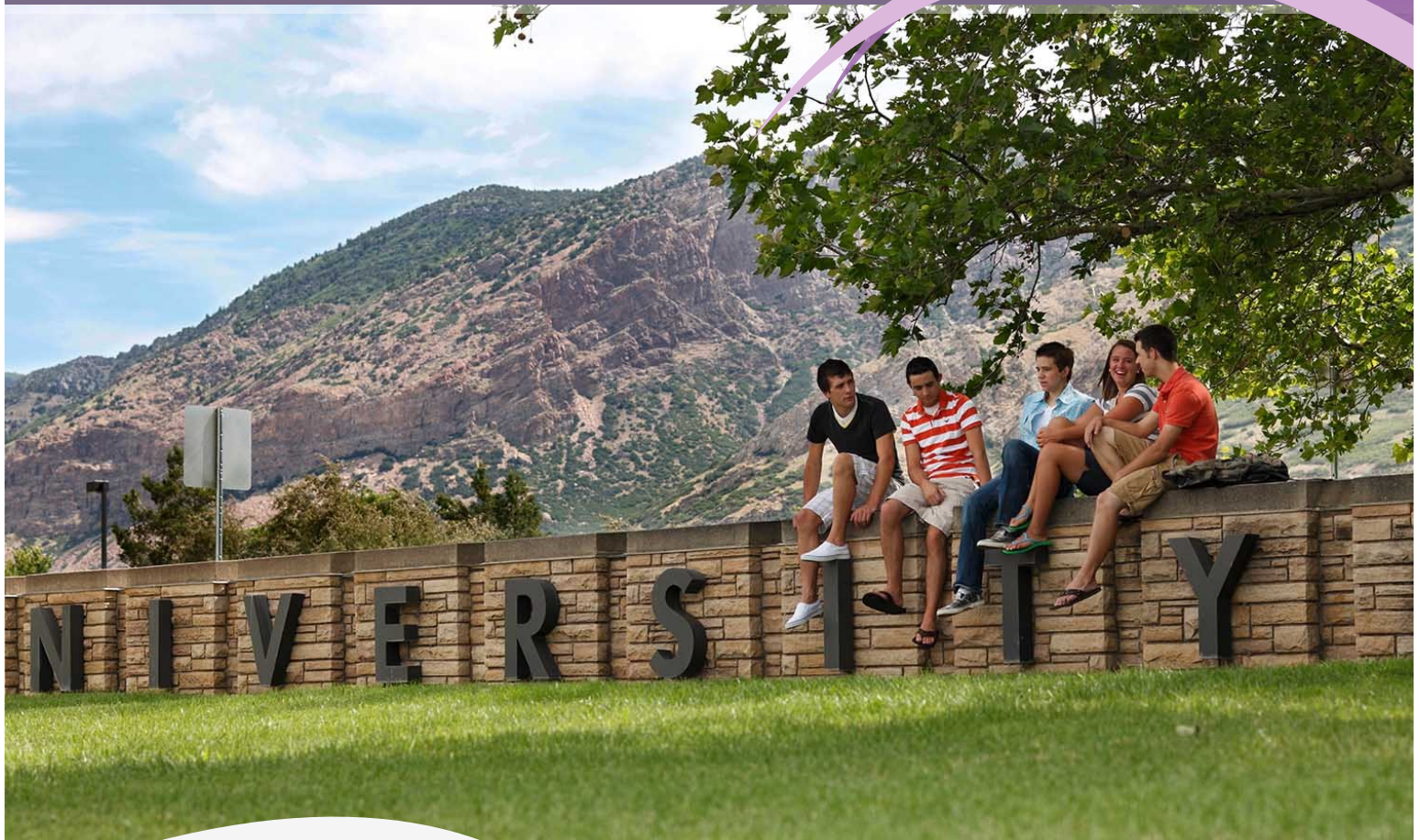


Approved by Faculty Senate March 18, 2021. Evaluation and schedule to be used by all colleges and programs. There is a link to website with further information at the end of the document.

Pilot of New Student Evaluations

Alex Lawrence, Andrea Easter-Pilcher, Brenda Kowalewski, Diana Meiser,
Gail Niklason, Jenny Kokai, Marjukka Ollilainen, Melissa Neville Norton,
and R.C. Morris



EVALUATION TASK FORCE
Qualitative Analysis of Pilot Feedback

Prepared by Dr. R. C. Morris
Sociology



Committee Mission, in brief:

The committee is studying student evaluations of teaching on the Weber State University (WSU) campus. All aspects of WSU's current evaluation practices are being considered. Best practices and innovations in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning informed the creation of a new instrument for use on WSU campus. Adaptations include considerations about the process and timing of evaluations.

This Report Summarizes the results of feedback received during the Fall Semester of 2020 examining a Pilot instrument currently under-development by the task force.

Coding Structure:

Faculty Feedback

Themes:

- Career Focus
- Response Rate
- Time

Sentiment:

- ◆ Negative
- ◆ Neutral
- ◆ Positive

Summary of Faculty Feedback

During the Fall Semester of 2020 faculty volunteers at WSU agreed to survey students using a newly developed evaluation instrument. Faculty feedback coalesced around three emergent themes, Career Focus, Response Rate, and Time/Timing.

Two faculty members expressed a desire to have a new instrument assess for student perceptions about career preparation, e.g.,

"Something about relevant application of learning as it relates to career preparation."

10 faculty members expressed concerns about low response rates:

"In each class I only had 1 or 2 students take the evaluation. It isn't enough feedback to say whether it is effective or not."

Three faculty members expressed concerns about the timing of the survey during the semester:

"...let students know about the new format, and the fact that the evals close before the semester is over. "

Sentiment coding found that five faculty had a negative impression of the new instrument, four had a neutral impression, and nine had a positive impression.

Comments generally seem to support the direction the task force is headed with the development of a new instrument and deployment strategy.



Coding Structure:

Student Feedback

Themes:

- Covid
- Professor Rating

Sentiment:

- ◆ Negative
- ◆ Neutral
- ◆ Positive

Summary of Student Feedback

Analysis of student data found two emergent themes: six students expressed a desire to be able to comment about new course delivery during Covid-19 and nine students expressed a desire to be able to rate instructors specifically.

Covid Theme, e.g.,

"I would have included how transitioning to an online environment has affected your class, or studying."

"Questions rating experience with covid as a response."

Professor Rating, e.g.,

"I would have included some things about organization of the class."

"I feel there could be more questions relating to the course work and course instructor."

"It doesn't show that a few professors just posted old material from their classes, and a lot of professors used this pandemic as an excuse to not engage as much with students."

Sentiment coding found that five had a negative impression of the new instrument, no student expressed a neutral impression, and one student expressed a positive impression.

Report Summary

Results of our Pilot effort reveals that faculty remain divided about the utility of student evaluations in general—this is consistent with national trends identified in the literature—the majority of faculty participating in our pilot evaluation approved of the new instrument.

Faculty reinforced our a priori concerns about the timing of student evaluations. A great deal of literature has investigated timing specifically. Our decision to use 80% course completion draws from best practices identified in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.

Student comments were over-represented by negative opinion. Negative sentiment reflects students' wanting a way to rate instructors directly (Yelp review effect?).

Based on our results, we hope to roll out the new instrument across WSU campus.

For more see supporting WSU website: [LINK](#)



Evaluation Task Force, Weber State University



For Questions Contact:

Melissa Neville-Norton, DNP,
APRN, CPNP-PC
Associate Professor
mneville@weber.edu