

Provost's Committee on Evaluations of Teaching - 2025-2026

Membership

Chair(s): John Burgess, Adam Vanhove

Members: Andreas Borscheid, Daisy Breneman, Matt Chamberlin, Becky Childs, Theresa Clarke, Tabitha Coates, H Gelfand, Jessica Lantz, John Lee, Christine Robinson, Ayasakanta Rout, Sam Suggs, Emily York,

Charge: Teaching excellence is a defining strength of James Madison University, recognized nationally by U.S. News & World Report as a Best College for teaching quality and awarded an A+ grade by the National Council on Teacher Quality. Pedagogy must remain prominent to ensure JMU maintains innovative leadership in evaluating and promoting high-quality instruction.

This standing committee is charged with advancing JMU's commitment to teaching excellence through the following strategic aims:

- Support departments in developing flexible, evidence-based frameworks for evaluating and promoting teaching effectiveness.
- Elevate professional development by fostering internal and external partnerships that enhance instructional growth.
- Consider the student voice to ensure that learning experiences remain responsive, inclusive, and of the highest quality.
- Support the creation and dissemination of institutional knowledge related to teaching excellence, pedagogy, and evaluation across academic units.
- Make recommendations to the provost and division as needed.

The committee operates under a co-chair model, with leadership shared between one administrator and one 10-month faculty member. Current strategic goals, include:

Strategic Goal #1: Promote and Support Use of the Resource Guide - *Support effective use of the resource guide. This includes continuous resource guide development, embedding supporting literature, and adapting applicability across units and levels (e.g., individual faculty, academic units, colleges). Identify internal and external resources to further equip faculty and units with the tools to manage implementation and foster long-term change in unit culture around evaluating teaching.*

Strategic Goal #2: Develop Best Practices and Guidance for Using Student Feedback - *Develop an evidence-based framework for using student feedback to promote teaching effectiveness. This includes evaluating and potentially designing summative or formative question sets or instruments, as well as alternative tools. Provide practical guidance for faculty on gathering, interpreting, and responding to student feedback throughout the semester. Address the role of student feedback within broader evaluation systems, such as annual performance reviews.*

Strategic Goal #3: Defining and Promoting Teaching Excellence - *Develop a framework defining teaching excellence that can be flexibly applied across the institution. This includes*

identifying the key domains of teaching excellence that can be integrated into a holistic model and identifying sources of evidence for assessing and developing excellence in each domain and holistically. Develop an adoption plan that builds on the committee's past and current work that promotes sustainable cultural change emphasizing teaching excellence.

Summary of 2025-2026 Activities:

- Following the development of two key deliverables: (1) recommendations for using student course experience surveys (i.e., SETs) and (2) a resource guide summarizing evidence-based best practices for evaluating teaching that departments can voluntarily adopt, we spent Fall 2025 defining a new set of strategic goals: (1) promoting and supporting the use of the teaching evaluation resource guide, (2) developing best practices and guidance for using student feedback, and (3) defining a promoting teaching excellence.
- In Spring 2026, subcommittees began work on the set of tasks defined under each strategic goal.
- We socialized the resource guide to PAC Chairs, AUHs, and Faculty Senate, receiving feedback on how to improve its usability and usefulness. We are on track to have revised version for Fall 2026, right as the faculty handbook revisions are implemented and PAC documents will require updating.

Future Work Planned:

- Subcommittees will continue to work through the set of tasks defined under each strategic goal.
- The full committee will connect with other internal and external entities to provide resources and support for departments in promoting teaching excellence.