

Provost's Committee on Evaluations of Teaching

Membership

Chair(s): John Burgess, Adam Vanhove

Members: Daisy Breneman, Matt Chamberlin, Becky Childs, Theresa Clarke, Zach Fleming (SGA), Kara Kavanagh, Jessica Lantz, John Lee, Christine Robinson, Ayasakanta Rout, Sam Suggs, Emily York

Charge: Teaching evaluations provide formative professional development feedback to the faculty and promote high-quality learning experiences for our students. The 2012 Student Evaluations of Teaching Task Force Report called for the establishment of a standing committee to work with the academic community and the Blue Team to increase awareness of the functionalities and processes related to successful use of the Blue system. More specifically, these committee members were meant to meet with departments, analyze feedback surveys, identify implementation problems and suggest solutions, work with IT, and circulate information. Building on this recommendation, the Provost has established the Committee on Evaluations of Teaching. This working group has a co-chair model with one administrator chair and one 10-month faculty member chair. The charge of this committee is to:

- Support faculty in their efforts to develop and assess their teaching
- Explore the efficacy evaluation practices
- Engage with the academic community to share information and learn about local experiences
- Make recommendations to the provost and division as needed.

Summary of 2024-2025 Activities:

- The PCET committee is finalizing 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.
- *Student course experience survey recommendations:* The Provost's office requested a standardized set of questions following best practices to maximize validity and minimize bias. The committee developed a series of recommendations, including changing the name of SETs to student course experience surveys, criteria all SET questions must meet, and a set of standardized questions.
- *Resource guide:* Based on subcommittee research into the use of SETs and national trends in evaluating teaching more broadly, the committee compiled the best practices established in the teaching evaluation literature and practice. These recommendations are intended to inform AUHs, PACs, and departmental faculty of current best practices and serve as a resource for departments when updating departmental PAC documents regarding teaching evaluation.

Future Work Planned:

- Identify structures to promote changes associated with student course experience surveys and how teaching is evaluated, more broadly.