

## **Provost's Committee on Evaluations of Teaching**

**Fall 2023**

### **Members:**

- **John Burgess, Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs & Curriculum, Co-Chair**
- **Adam Vanhove, College of Business, Co-Chair**
- Matthew Chamberlin, University Studies
- Becky Childs, College of Arts & Letters, AUH (English)
- Zach Fleming, SGA Academic Affairs Chair, Student Representative
- Emily Gravett, Center for Faculty Innovation
- Elizabeth Karam, College of Business, AUH (Business Management & MBA Program)
- Kara Kavanagh, College of Education
- Jessica Lantz, Libraries
- John Lee, Graduate Student Representative
- Christine Robinson, College of Arts & Letters
- Ayasakanta Rout, College of Health and Behavioral Studies
- Samuel Suggs, College of Visual & Performing Arts
- Emily York, College of Integrated Science & Engineering

### **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.

### **1.3.24 Report**

The committee met three times in the Fall Semester. The work of the committee was outlined, and the committee was distributed among three subcommittees tasked with forming recommendations around the topics.

The goal of 2023-24 is to assemble a preliminary report from each subcommittee by the end of the spring term, to outline steps towards substantive recommendations in the 2024-25 academic year.

#### **Subcommittee 1: SET Question Revisions**

2023-2024 objectives:

- Collect and review empirical evidence on bias in SETs.
  - What is the magnitude of gender, race, etc. subgroup differences evidenced in the literature?
  - What types of questions are associated with greater bias?
- Establish baseline estimates of subgroup differences at JMU (if possible)
  - Collect and analyze data on subgroup differences in SETs at JMU.
  - Identify SET questions with greater/less bias.
- Identify best practices for minimizing and eliminating bias in SETs.
  - What is the magnitude of gender, race, etc. subgroup differences when following best practices evidenced in the literature?
  - What types and format of questions should be used?
- Develop recommendations for revising SETs at JMU.

#### **Subcommittee 2: National Trends in Evaluating Teaching**

2023-2024 objectives:

- Collect and review empirical evidence on teaching evaluation measures other than SETs
  - What is the magnitude of gender, race, etc. subgroup differences associated with these measures evidenced in literature?
  - What is the content, construct, and criterion-related validity of these other measures evidenced in the literature?
- Identify best practices for implementing alternatives to SETs.
  - What is the magnitude of subgroup differences associated with these measures when following best practices evidenced in the literature?
  - What is the content, construct, and criterion-related validity of these measures when following best practices evidenced in the literature?

- Develop set of recommendations for integrating these measures and whether or not they potentially could replace SETs at JMU.

### **Subcommittee 3: Best Current Practices for Teaching Evaluations at JMU**

2023-2024 objectives:

- Identify innovative practices for evaluating teaching effectiveness within specific JMU departments.
  - Identify and review any evidence that has been collected within-department evaluating the use of these innovative practices, and/or
  - What is the reception of these innovative practices within-department (perceptions of fairness, satisfaction with methods, and perceived effectiveness of methods)?
- Identify innovative practices for evaluating teaching effectiveness outside of JMU.
  - Identify and review any evidence that has been collected evaluating the use of these innovative practices.
- Develop recommendations for adopting and standardizing innovative best practices across JMU and/or offer a series of possible best practices from which JMU departments could choose to best fit their needs.