Office of Institutional Research & Assessment

Binghamton University
STUDENT OPINION OF TEACHING SURVEY--RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Author: Sean McKitrick
Participating Institutions

Brooklyn College
Clark University
College of William and Mary
Cornell University
Eastern Washington University
Fairfield University
Florida Atlantic University
Loyola University Chicago
Mississippi State University
Missouri State University
Missouri University of Sciences and Technology
New York City college of Technology, CUNY
Old Dominion University
Pasco-Hernando Community College
Princeton University
Purdue North Central
Rush University
Stevens Institute of Technology
SUNY ESF
SUNY New Paltz
SUNY Oneonta
SUNY Potsdam
Texas Tech University
The University of Mississippi
University at Buffalo
University of Alabama
University of California, Riverside
University of Georgia
University of Idaho
University of Kansas
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
University of Missouri St. Louis

University of New Hampshire
University of Oregon
University of Wisconsin Madison
University of Wyoming
Virginia Commonwealth University
Webster University
Wichita State University
**Executive Summary**

**Purpose**
Binghamton University’s Office of Institutional Research & Assessment (OIRA) was asked by the University Faculty Senate to conduct a survey asking chief academic officers and other administrators at comparable institutions to answer questions about their student evaluations of teaching. The results will be used to help the Faculty Senate’s Student Evaluation of Teaching Task Force (SOOT Task Force) recommend ways to effectively and meaningfully assess teaching at the University.

**Procedure**
OIRA consulted a list of comparable institutions and invited them and members of the ASSESS Listserv to complete the survey. 90 Chief Academic Officers, Presidents and Chancellors were sent emails, of which 41 replied, yielding a response rate of 46%. In addition, 20 respondents, mostly from institutional research and assessment offices, completed the survey. Of the respondents, 73% were CAOs or Presidents.

**Findings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of Evaluations:</th>
<th>Of the institutions surveyed, an overwhelming number assess teaching on their campuses (97%), all of which involve student evaluations of teaching. 64% indicated that students do not independently distribute assessments of instructors, although a majority indicate the evaluations differ from unit to unit within their institutions. For the vast majority of campuses (88%), assessment of teaching does not depend on faculty classification or rank, or on the type of course (72%). A majority of institutions reported that they could supply data as to the percentage of courses participating in such an assessment exercise (70%), the percentage of students participating (63%), and in other relevant ways (60%);</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required?</td>
<td>86% of those institutions that participated in the survey make assessment of teaching mandatory. 33% of these assessments are administered centrally by their institutions (e.g., through the Office of Institutional Research, Testing Center, or some other central administrative body), and 41% are administered by the faculty. In addition, 73% if these institutions require or recommend that standardized instruments be used in evaluating teaching, 47% require or recommend that quantitative data be collected, and 43% require or recommend that qualitative data be used. 83% of institutions state that they evaluate teaching beyond just collecting questionnaire data;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Who Are Results Released To?

72% of those institutions that reported that they use non-student administered assessments indicated that they do not release results to elements outside the faculty or administration; 15% stated that they did. Of the 15% of those who stated that they release such information, the majority also stated that they comply with legal mandates to release such information by regulatory bodies such as program accreditors or state governments. Of the 15% of institutions stating that they released such information, 80% stated that they release information to students or student organizations, 30% to the public at large. Follow-up information suggests that these institutions do not release qualitative information;

### Laws and Regulations

20% of institutions reported that there are laws or regulations in place relating to the release of non-student administered assessments (e.g., procedures in place to submit Freedom of Information Act requests, etc.). 15% of institutions stated that their students make such requests, although 45% percent said they were unsure;

### Implications

Respondents were asked to respond to a question about the implications of sharing teaching evaluation information. Opinions varied, but respondents appeared to agree that assessment of teaching was important, but that allowing instructors to opt out might produce difficulties for the tenure and promotion process, as well as for the improvement of teaching and learning. Several respondents felt that it was a good idea for results to be released to the public, but several also noted that this would be highly controversial, if not a violation of privacy.
STF Questionnaire

The person completing this survey is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provost/Vice Chancellor/Associate Provost/Associate Vice</td>
<td>72.3%</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of an institutional research office</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of an assessment office</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of a president's office</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

47 answered question
14 skipped question

The person completing this survey is:

- Provost/Vice Chancellor/Associate Provost/Associate Vice Chancellor
- Member of an institutional research office
- Member of an assessment office
- Member of a president's office
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Not applicable</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does your institution have any sort of policy as to the</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does your institution ask students to report on the</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quite apart from 1 or 2, above, do students on your</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If some sort of policy obtains institutionally, does that</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do practices and/or policies differ, unit to unit?</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does assessment of teaching depend on classification or</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does assessment of teaching depend on the type of</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can you supply data as to the percentage of courses,</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can that data be broken down by type of course,</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can you supply data as to the percentage of students</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can you break data down in other relevant ways, other</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Answered question | 61 |
| Skipped question  | 0  |
Please answer the following questions:

Does your institution have any sort of policy as to the assessment of the teaching of instructors?

- Yes: 59%
- No: 60%
- Not applicable: 10%
- Unsure: 12%

Does your institution ask students to report on the teaching of their instructors, whether via questionnaire or through other means?

- Yes: 39%
- No: 36%
- Not applicable: 19%
- Unsure: 27%

Quite apart from 1 or 2, above, do students on your campus independently conduct and distribute assessments of instructors, i.e., for the benefit of other students on campus, not for an off-campus web site or campus?

- Yes: 30%
- No: 53%
- Not applicable: 5%
- Unsure: 14%

If some sort of policy obtains institutionally, does that represent a single, uniform policy for the whole institution?

- Yes: 59%
- No: 38%
- Not applicable: 14%
- Unsure: 10%

Do practices and/or policies differ, unit to unit?

- Yes: 39%
- No: 36%
- Not applicable: 19%
- Unsure: 27%

Does assessment of teaching depend on classification or rank of instructor (e.g., ladder v. non-ladder, tenured v. non-tenured, instructor of record v. teaching assistant)?

- Yes: 30%
- No: 53%
- Not applicable: 5%
- Unsure: 14%

Does assessment of teaching depend on the type of course (e.g., big lecture v. independent study, graduate v. undergraduate)?

- Yes: 59%
- No: 38%
- Not applicable: 14%
- Unsure: 10%

Can you supply data as to the percentage of courses, sections, or faculty members participating in some sort of assessment exercise?

- Yes: 59%
- No: 38%
- Not applicable: 14%
- Unsure: 10%

Can that data be broken down by type of course, rank/classification of instructor, etc.?

- Yes: 59%
- No: 38%
- Not applicable: 14%
- Unsure: 10%

Can you supply data as to the percentage of students participating in such assessments (responding to questionnaires, etc.)?

- Yes: 59%
- No: 38%
- Not applicable: 14%
- Unsure: 10%

Can you break data down in other relevant ways, other than implied or stated in the questions above?

- Yes: 59%
- No: 38%
- Not applicable: 14%
- Unsure: 10%
STF Questionnaire

Whether for the institution as a whole or for individual units, is assessment of teaching mandatory, recommended, or optional?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>86.4%</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommended</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 59
skipped question 2

Whether for the institution as a whole or for individual units, is assessment of teaching mandatory, recommended, or optional?

- Mandatory: 86%
- Recommended: 9%
- Optional: 5%
STF Questionnaire

Is assessment administered:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Centrally by the institution (e.g., via website)?</td>
<td>32.8%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centrally by units (e.g., via website)?</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By faculty members (e.g., via questionnaire distributed in class)?</td>
<td>41.0%</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By students?</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some combination of the above?</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please comment

- Answered question: 61
- Skipped question: 0

- Centrally by the institution (e.g., via website)?
- Centrally by units (e.g., via website)?
- By faculty members (e.g., via questionnaire distributed in class)?
- By students?
- Some combination of the above?
Does your institution, or do constituent units (Please choose all that apply):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Require or recommend that a standardized instrument</td>
<td>73.3%</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Require or recommend that quantitative data are to be</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Require or recommend that qualitative data are to be</td>
<td>43.3%</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A mixture of the above?</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please comment:

- Answered question: 60
- Skipped question: 1
STF Questionnaire

Is it a policy or an established practice (whether institutionally or unit-to-unit) for the evaluation of teaching to extend beyond the collection of data via questionnaires, e.g., through observation of teaching or the like?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, we evaluate teaching beyond just collecting</td>
<td>82.8%</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, we do not evaluate teaching beyond just collecting</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Answered Question** 58

**Skipped Question** 3

Is it a policy or an established practice (whether institutionally or unit-to-unit) for the evaluation of teaching to extend beyond the collection of data via questionnaires, e.g., through observation of teaching or the like?

- Yes, we evaluate teaching beyond just collecting data via questionnaire (83%)
- No, we do not evaluate teaching beyond just collecting data via questionnaire (17%)
STF Questionnaire

If you answered “yes” to the above question, is the observation of teaching beyond the use or questionnaires (Please choose all that apply):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory for all instructors</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommended for all instructors</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional for all instructors</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependent of faculty rank or classification for all</td>
<td>39.6%</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependent on the type of course</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comment:

- **answered question**: 48
- **skipped question**: 13

If you answered “yes” to the above question, is the observation of teaching beyond the use or questionnaires (Please choose all that apply):

- Mandatory for all instructors
- Recommended for all instructors
- Optional for all instructors
- Dependent of faculty rank or classification for all
- Dependent on the type of course

- 14.6%
- 18.8%
- 20.8%
- 39.6%
- 6.3%
- 20.8%
Are the results of specifically non-student-administered assessments (i.e., those administered under the auspices of faculty, units, or the institution) released to elements outside the faculty or administration of your institution?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>71.7%</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 60
skipped question 1

Are the results of specifically non-student-administered assessments (i.e., those administered under the auspices of faculty, units, or the institution) released to elements outside the faculty or administration of your institution?
**STF Questionnaire**

If results of non-student administered assessments are released to elements outside the faculty or administration of your institution, to whom are the results released?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students, or organizations</td>
<td>80.0%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The public at large</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **answered question**: 10
- **skipped question**: 51

If results of non-student administered assessments are released to elements outside the faculty or administration of your institution, to whom are the results released?

- Students, or organizations representing them: 80.0%
- The public at large: 30.0%
Are there laws or regulations in place relating to the release of non-student-administered assessments? Can, in other words, students request assessment data through legal provisions like New York State’s “FOIL” law (Freedom of Information Law)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>58.2%</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Answered question:** 55

**Skipped question:** 6

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![Pie chart showing response percentages]

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STF Questionnaire

- **Are there laws or regulations in place relating to the release of non-student-administered assessments? Can, in other words, students request assessment data through legal provisions like New York State’s “FOIL” law (Freedom of Information Law)?**

- **Answer Options:**
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unsure
  - Not applicable

- **Response Percent:**
  - Yes: 20.0%
  - No: 18.2%
  - Unsure: 58.2%
  - Not applicable: 3.6%

- **Response Count:**
  - Yes: 11
  - No: 10
  - Unsure: 32
  - Not applicable: 2

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- **STF Questionnaire**
- **Answered question:** 55
- **Skipped question:** 6

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- **Comments:** No
**STF Questionnaire**

**At your institution, do students make such requests?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>36.7%</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>45.0%</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Comment:** No

- **answered question**: 60
- **skipped question**: 1

![Pie chart showing responses to the question](image-url)