

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
October 27, 2015

Attendance: Michael Deschenes (chair), Catherine Forestell, Joan Gavalier (note-taker), Greg Hancock, Rex Kincaid, Kate Conley

- 1) Minutes from October 20 meeting were approved.
- 2) Discussion with chair of Teaching Evaluation ad hoc committee, Bill Cooke, faculty in School of Education, Mike Dipaolo, and data analyst, Carol MacVaugh.

Issues included:

- limits and usefulness of student evaluations to measure teaching quality, whether there are other processes that could be used as well
- focus on measuring actual teaching practices rather than only on student perceptions of their experiences
- differentiating evaluation averages for large and small classes, using historical averages for each class, using the standard deviation above and below the department mean for 3 levels of performance
- return rate differences in online vs paper evaluations, do low return rates invalidate evaluations?
- use of evaluations for merit vs. gathering information to specifically improve teaching
- if volume of current questions could be reduced, the use of personalized questions to get feedback on new teaching strategies could become possible
- teaching through independent studies is not currently being measured