Provost's Committee on Evaluations of Teaching
Spring 2024 Report

Membership
    Chair(s): John Burgess and Adam Vanhove
    Members: Matt Chamberlin, Jessica Lantz, Christine Robinson, Becky Childs, Emily York, Sam Suggs, Ayasakanta Rout, Daisy Breneman, John Lee, Kara Kavanagh, Liz Karam

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 Current Semester Activity:
- This is a new standing committee. The fall semester was used to identify initial goals, resulting in the creation of three subcommittees: Best Practices for Revising SET Questions, National Trends in Evaluating Teaching, and Best Current Practices for Teaching Evaluations at JMU. The first subcommittee is focused on SETs, while the latter two aim to better understand the broader models and systems for evaluating teaching. Spring 2024 began the work of the subcommittees. Below is a summary of their progress.
- *SET Question Revision Subcommittee:* Conducted a review of existing literature on the use of SETs, evidence of bias in SETs, and best practices for minimizing bias and maximizing the validity of SETs.
- *National Trends Subcommittee:* Identified models and systems for evaluating teaching in place at other universities. Identified industry best models, highlighting exemplary aspects of those different models and common themes among those best models, and identified preliminary insights that may be feasible to adopt at JMU.
- *Best Current Practices for Teaching Evaluation Subcommittee:* Began developing a survey to capture what JMU faculty think is working well in their departments (and possibly the things that aren't). This could include formally documented evaluation

practices or informal and implicit practices within departments. The goal is a Fall 2024 launch.

Future Work Planned:
- Establish a set of bylaws.
- Continue subcommittee work.
- Establish multi-dimensional definition of effective teaching.
- Identifying the best and more feasible forms of measuring effective teaching dimensions, using the information and recommendations collected from AY2023-2024 subcommittee work.
- Build a system for evaluating teaching that can be flexibly adapted to JMU departmental needs.