49-R-10

A Resolution to Support the Increased Use and Accessibility
of Student Evaluation of Instruction Assessments

Zach Clark (for himself, Mario Belfiglio, Michael Frank, and Samer Abusway) introduced the following resolution to the floor of the General Assembly.

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Whereas the Undergraduate Student Government represents all undergraduate students at The Ohio State University, and

Whereas the Rules of the University Faculty, Rule 3335-3-35(C)(14), states that the duties of the chair of a department or the director of a school shall "promote improvement of instruction by providing for the evaluation of each course when offered, including written evaluation by students of the course and instructors, and periodic course review by the faculty,"[1] and

Whereas the Office of Academic Affairs handbook in Section 2.6.3.1 Teaching[2] further requires evaluation in all courses and by faculty members, stating each tenure-initiating-unit (TIU) must follow a plan for obtaining student evaluation information to be used in faculty performance reviews, and

Whereas The Ohio State University Student Evaluation of Instruction (SEI) instrument was developed as a way to centrally conduct this evaluation,[3] and

Whereas the SEI instrument is currently the most widely-used method for collecting teaching feedback at The Ohio State University,[4] and

Whereas the SEI instrument focuses on the students' perceptions of instruction, taking into account factors shown by research to affect such responses, including class size and whether the course was required or an elective in the student's program,[5] and

Whereas the SEI instrument asks students to evaluate instruction using nine items with a tenth item for an "Overall" rating of instruction,[6] but only the average of the "Overall" rating is accessible via students' Buckeye Link Student Center dashboard,[7] and

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[1] http://trustees.osu.edu/assets/files/RuleBook/UniversityFacultyRules.pdf
[2] http://oaa.osu.edu/assets/files/documents/1.1HBGovDocs.pdf
[3] http://registrar.osu.edu/faculty/sei/SEI_handbook.pdf
[4] https://registrar.osu.edu/secure/sei_search/
[5] http://registrar.osu.edu/faculty/sei/SEI_handbook.pdf
[6] http://registrar.osu.edu/faculty/sei/SEI_handbook.pdf
[7] https://registrar.osu.edu/secure/sei_search/

Whereas the reporting of SEI results to students and faculty compares the evaluation score of the faculty member to classes of a similar size but does not account for differences between course subject and department,[8] and

Whereas not all departments or instructors at The Ohio State University administer or use the SEI instrument, and

Whereas The Ohio State University does not publish the list of departments or courses that opt out of the SEI instrument,[9] and
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Whereas the Student Evaluation of Instruction Oversight Committee of the Council on Academic Affairs oversees decisions that relate to the administration of SEIs, policy and content changes regarding SEIs, advocacy of the SEI, and other SEI related activities;[10]

Therefore Let it Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government advocates for the publication of SEI results on the Buckeye Link Student Center dashboard in order to allow for greater student accessibility, and

Let it Further Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government supports the adoption and expansion of mid-semester SEIs, and

Let it Further Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government encourages the Office of Academic Affairs to better publicize the availability to view SEI results online so that students can be made more aware of this resource, and

Let it Further Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government supports the accessibility of the average SEI rating across all courses, average rating in specific course numbers, departmental average for the instructor, and departmental average for each course, and

Let it Further Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government recommends that the Student Evaluation of Instruction Oversight Committee work to standardize SEI requirements across all departments, courses, and instructors to administer these evaluations.

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[8] http://registrar.osu.edu/faculty/sei/SEI_handbook.pdf
[9] https://registrar.osu.edu/faculty/sei/onlineseilist.asp

Floor Vote: 36 Aye: Nay: 0 Abstain: 2

Gerard C. Basalla
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Gerard Basalla
President

Danielle M. Di Scala
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Danielle Di Scala
Vice President

Date Adopted: ___8/31/16_____

Date Terminated: _____