

2015

Teaching Effectiveness Committee Annual Report May 2015

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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2014-15 members of TEC

Jing Jian Xiao, HDF
Mary MacDonald, LIB
Terry Deeney, EDC
Furong Xu, KIN
Nedra Reynolds, WRT, chair
Kevin Rodriguez, GSA
Phyllis Pasquale, undergraduate and Student Senate rep
Andrew Larson, undergraduate
David Porter, Information and Technology Services, *ex officio*
David Hayes, Director, Academic Enhancement Center, *ad hoc* appointee
Diane Goldsmith, Director of Learning, Assessment and Online Education, *ad hoc* appointee

Charge to the Committee:

The Teaching Effectiveness Committee shall promote good teaching at the University by: conducting and reporting to the Faculty Senate an annual audit of programs, activities, policies, etc., which are available at the University to support good teaching; serving as an advisory committee to the Instructional Development Program; undertaking each year, in cooperation with other interested parties, an initiative designed to improve teaching practices at the University. The Director of the Instructional Development Program and the Director of Information and Instructional Technology Services shall serve as *ex officio* members of this committee.

This year's Teaching Effectiveness Committee met on October 20, 2014; January 21, 2015; and March 23, 2015. We had two main agenda items this year: continuing the transition to online IDEA surveys and coordinating and centralizing teaching resources. We were pleased to have student representation and hope that will continue.

Two Issues

1. The TEC continued this year to focus on **the transition to online IDEA surveys**. On November 18, 2014, a group participated in a webinar with Campus Labs, who partners with IDEA to deliver the mobile app version of the IDEA surveys: <http://www.campuslabs.com/products/course-evaluations/>. The first step has been taken, as all faculty email accounts are now on the same platform.
2. The TEC continues to advocate for more and better resources for those who teach at URI. Two websites are now available, the first most appropriate for new faculty:
 - Faculty Information: <http://web.uri.edu/faculty/>
 - Office for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning: <http://web.uri.edu/atl/>

Recommendations

1. Online IDEAs: maintain forward progress

A year ago, the TEC strongly supported a move to online implementation of the IDEA instrument for Spring 2015 or Fall 2015. Now we are hoping for a Spring 2016 rollout, and the committee is prepared to contribute to this transition through faculty training and managing expectations. Campus Labs supports all formats (e.g., mobile devices and tablets). Students will receive a standard URL and can log in anonymously and change responses until the closing date. In-class time for completing these surveys will no longer be needed, and faculty will no longer need to fill in a Discipline Code. Campus Labs provides unlimited training. In addition, the President of The IDEA Center, Ken Ryalls, will be coming to URI **September 21-22, 2015** to meet with faculty and administrators about the implementation of the IDEA online.

The TEC will provide language for syllabi that states the importance of students' participation and the role of IDEA results in shaping instructors' assignments or activities. We will ask the Provost's office to include a template or sample passage about the IDEAs on the recommended Syllabus Statements for faculty. The committee also discussed best practices for filling out the Faculty Information Forms (FIF) and will disseminate that information to all instructors.

2. Resources to Support Teaching: still hoping for a presence on the URI Home page

Now that the Office for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning is established and has hired two assistant directors for Faculty Development, the TEC would like to see **teaching** as a link on the home page, along with **research and outreach**.

3. The Future of the TEC: FSEC should reconsider

Much of this year's work on the TEC has been to review what the Office of the Advancement of Teaching and Learning is doing. With OATL in place, it might make more sense to create a faculty+student advisory board for that office. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee might want to review the charge and the make-up of the TEC in light of the emergence of the OATL.