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EP.22.010  
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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY  
(Final; Information)

EP.22.010 Instructor and Course Evaluation System (ICES) for 2021-2022

**BACKGROUND**

On February 22, 2010, the Senate discussed ICES as a Committee of the Whole, pointing out pros and cons of online versus in-person/hard-copy administration. At that meeting, it was noted “there was no timeline about a decision to codify ICES Online as a campus policy” ([https://www.senate.illinois.edu/100222\\_m.pdf](https://www.senate.illinois.edu/100222_m.pdf)).

EP.20.161, Partial List of Challenges Arising From COVID-19 ([https://www.senate.illinois.edu/20200427senate/EP20161\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.senate.illinois.edu/20200427senate/EP20161_FINAL.pdf)), discusses some of these same pros and cons about the administration of ICES online in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. EP.20.161 was presented to the full Senate as a report item at the April 27, 2020 meeting.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL) successfully moved all student ICES evaluations fully online. Three major advantages of the online system emerged during this time: Students are able to provide more detailed responses to the open-ended questions; instructors are able to review reports summarizing student feedback weeks earlier compared to the paper-based system; and the reports from the online evaluations are easily available to instructors at any time in a digital format.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL) and the Provost’s office recommend continued administration of ICES online in the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semesters and in courses offered in the Winter 2021-22 and Summer 2022 sessions. Realizing some hybrid courses will continue throughout 2021-2022 academic year, it is important to be inclusive of all courses, to include students who cannot be on campus, and to ensure data compatibility. Online administration of student evaluations fulfills this need. Online administration would also be in alignment with the recent recommendations from the Report of the Provost’s Task Force on Assessing Teaching Effectiveness for a future student rating system.

While some faculty may have concerns about response rate differences between the online mode of student evaluation administration compared to the in-person administration mode, these differences can be mitigated if instructors dedicate class time to filling out electronic ICES forms, as was practice with the paper ICES forms in previous pre-pandemic semesters.

In addition to the recommendation above to continue ICES online, the Senate Educational Policy Committee is asked to address previous concerns as noted in the background of this proposal, plus provide feedback on best practices for online administration in future semesters. Such feedback would include engagement with Senate members and discussion of how best to implement the recommendations on student course and instructor evaluations in the Teaching Effectiveness Task Force report, consulting with members of that Task Force as appropriate. This feedback is to be submitted as a report to the full Senate by the end of the Spring 2022 semester.

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