Student Evaluation of Teaching Task Force

First Progress Report to the Faculty Senate

February 11, 2010
The SET Task Force

- Henri Jansen (Science)
- Joshua Keady, Undergraduate (Business)
- Susie Leslie (Academic Planning and Assessment)
- William Loges (Liberal Arts)
- Travis Margoni, Graduate student (Liberal Arts)
- Deborah Pence, Chair (Engineering)
- Peter Saunders (Center for Teaching and Learning)
- Juan Trujillo (Liberal Arts)
- Beth Valentine (Veterinary Medicine)
Why Conduct SET?

- Improve teaching and learning
- Provide students a voice in assessment
- Meet state OAR requirements
  - These describe a formative evaluation
  - These do not specify the current format:
    - “Specific provision shall be made for appropriate student input into the data accumulated as the basis for reappointment, promotion, and tenure decisions, and for post-tenure review. Sources of such input shall include, but need not be limited to, solicitation of student comments, student evaluations of instructors and opportunities for participation by students in personnel committee deliberations.”
Problems with Current Format

- Summative approach provides feedback too late
- Studies show low correlation between SET and learning*
- Poorly worded items
- Limited usefulness to faculty and administration
- Perverse incentives (e.g., importance of being “above average”)

Task Force’s Goals for SET Method

- Focus on improving teaching
- Employ a formative approach
- Focus on elements that affect student learning rather than overall assessment
- Allow for evaluation of diverse teaching methods and philosophies
- Provide a flexible system that faculty can adapt to their course
A SET Method Should . . .

- Be capable of providing feedback during the term, when it’s helpful to the class
- Include a menu of proven items from which the instructor can choose
- Limit access to the data to discourage misleading and invidious comparisons
- Address many factors that affect learning (e.g., course design, classroom environment, materials, et al.)
We Want to Hear from Others

- Met with members of P&T Committee
- Faculty forums scheduled
  - February 16, 4-6 PM, Kearney 212
  - February 24, 4-6 PM, Kelley 1001
- Student forum scheduled: February 17, 4-6 PM, location TBA
- Will meet with Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity, with attention to PROFs
- Contact us with your thoughts
Next Steps

- Absorb feedback from meetings and forums
- Begin fleshing out the method we would propose
- Return to Faculty Senate with draft proposal in April