

Senate of College Councils Policy Briefing

S.R. 1102 – In Support of Mandatory Electronic Course Instructor Surveys

Briefing prepared by: Laura Wright, lswright@me.com

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BACKGROUND

- Currently, the process by which professors collect student feedback, Course Instructor Surveys (CIS) and electronic Course Instructor Surveys (eCIS) is neither standardized nor efficient. The use of paper CIS raises legitimate student privacy concerns.

PURPOSE

- To standardize the process by which student feedback on professor performance is collected.

SUMMARY

- The use of paper CIS or voluntary eCIS poses problems for student privacy and the accuracy of the data collected.
- Senate recommends mandating eCIS to avoid the privacy concerns of paper CIS and the unrepresentative results of voluntary eCIS
- Senate recommends that grades be withheld until students have completed all their eCIS from their most recently completed semester

WHEREAS SUMMARY

Lines 6-17	The Commission of 125 Report stresses the importance of “holding faculty accountable for the outcome” in terms of teaching and research, and currently, Course Instructor Surveys (CIS) are the primary mechanism for student feedback to professors about course design and delivery.
Lines 19-31	The data collected through CIS is used by students when selecting courses, is central to the goals of the Course Transformation program, and is a factor in decisions about teaching awards and tenure.
Lines 33-53	Current problems with the CIS system include: CIS with fewer than five respondents are not reported; eCIS are currently voluntary, meaning the results cannot be interpreted as representative of student opinion; the handwritten section of paper CIS may lead students to censor themselves if they fear their handwriting will be recognized
Lines 55-63	Under FERPA, TPIA and TORA, student information would be redacted

from typed eCIS comments before they were published through an open records requests, thereby protecting student privacy.

Choose an item. **SUMMARY**

Lines 65-70

The Senate of College Councils recommends the use of mandatory eCIS as the official way to collect student feedback on professor performance and suggests that student grades be withheld until they have completed all eCIS form their most recently completed semester.

SENT TO

Brad Englert, Shelby Stanfield, Gretchen Ritter, the Educational Policy Committee of Faculty Council, and the Research and Education Technology Committee.

NEXT STEPS IF PASSED

- Bring up resolution in both the Educational Policy Committee of Faculty Council and the Research and Education Technology Committee to gauge feasibility and timeline for implementation.

CONTACT INFO

Laura Wright lswright@me.com
Josh Fjelstul Joshua.Fjelstul@bba09.mcombs.utexas.edu