



CALIFORNIA  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY,  
FRESNO

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** November 21, 2011

**TO:** Faculty  
Department of History  
M/S SS 21

**FROM:** William A. Covino   
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

**SUBJECT:** Approval of your Department Policy on Peer Evaluations  
and Student Course Evaluations (RE: APM 322)

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I have received and reviewed your departmental documents, and they are tentatively approved for implementation during the remainder of AY11-12.

I am, however, concerned about your department's use of a relatively low statistical standard for student ratings—a standard that may render data used to support AY12-13 RTP recommendations less than persuasive. Thus, it is my hope that, once AY11-12 data becomes widely available, you may wish to adjust the departmental standard upward to a more meaningful measure of relative teaching performance.

In the meantime, I want to reiterate my commitment to our Academic Senate's stated beliefs that student feedback is best viewed from a multi-year perspective, and considered within the larger context of all evidence presented in support of a colleague's teaching effectiveness.

WAC:kyp

cc: Luz Gonzalez, Dean, College of Social Sciences  
Ted Wendt, AVP for Academic Personnel

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**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**  
**POLICY ON ASSESSMENT OF TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS**

APM 322 is the official policy on the Assessment of Teaching Effectiveness. This departmental policy is designed to further define requirements at the departmental level as specified in APM 322.

**STUDENT RATINGS OF INSTRUCTION**

1. Frequency
  - a. For part-time temporary faculty, **all sections will be evaluated by students.**
  - b. For full-time temporary faculty, **two sections each semester will be evaluated by students.**
  - c. For probationary faculty, a minimum of **two sections** will be evaluated by students every semester.
  - d. For tenured faculty, a minimum of **two sections** will be evaluated by students annually.
  
2. Faculty will use the IDEA Short Form for student evaluations.

Student ratings of instruction shall be assessed to identify patterns and trends of teaching performance and effectiveness. It is expected that the faculty member shall meet or exceed the department standard of **3.0 out of 5.0** using adjusted or unadjusted scores, whichever are higher, on a regular basis; however, it is more important to evaluate on the basis of multi-year trends rather than focusing on a single course or narrow time frame.

**PEER EVALUATIONS**

1. Frequency
  - a. For part-time temporary faculty, the first time a course is taught by the instructor and, thereafter, at least **one section every semester** must be evaluated.
  - b. For full-time temporary faculty, two sections each semester for the first year and at least **one section every semester** thereafter.
  - c. For probationary faculty, **two sections (to include as many different courses as possible) every semester.**
  - d. For tenured faculty, **one section each academic year must be evaluated on a rotating basis, such that during a five year period the maximum number of different courses is evaluated.**
  
2. Faculty will use the attached departmentally-approved form to evaluate Course Content, Instructional Design, Instructional Delivery and Assessment methods.

**OVERALL**

The Department will follow the guidelines in APM 325, APM 327 and APM 328 when electing committees selected to prepare the overall evaluation of teaching.

## **APPROVAL PROCESS**

Departmental policies will be submitted to the appropriate School/College Dean and to the Provost for review and approval.

**California State University, Fresno**  
**PEER EVALUATION FORM**  
Department of History

**Professor Evaluated:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rank:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Course:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Term/Year:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Classroom Visitation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Evaluator** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional comments may be included on the reverse side of this form or as an attachment.**

<p><b>A. Course Content.</b> The assessment of course content shall include a review of the currency of the content of a course, the appropriateness of the level of the content of a course, and the appropriateness of the sequencing of the content to best achieve the learning objectives for the course.</p>
<p><b>COMMENTS:</b></p>
<p><b>B. Instructional Design.</b> The assessment of the instructional design of the course shall include a review of learning objectives, syllabi, instructional support materials, organization of lectures, and the use of technology appropriate to the class.</p>
<p><b>COMMENTS:</b></p>
<p><b>C. Instructional Delivery.</b> The assessment of delivery shall include a review of oral presentation skills, written communication skills, skills using various forms of informational technology, and the ability to create an overall environment conducive to student learning.</p>
<p><b>COMMENTS:</b></p>
<p><b>D. Assessment Methods.</b> The evaluation of assessment methods shall consist of a review of the tools, procedures, and strategies used for measuring student learning, and providing timely and meaningful feedback to students.</p>
<p><b>COMMENTS:</b></p>