Minutes of 12/4/2017 Senate Faculty Standards meeting

Attending: Mark Boyer (chair), Sandra Bellini, Jack Clausen, Maria-Luz Fernandez, Michael Fischl, Peter Gogarten, Phil Gould, Del Seigle, Fiona Bernardin, Lloyd Blanchard, Preston Britner, Elizabeth Jockusch, Girish Punj, Andrew Rugalski, John Volin (ex officio). Guest: Betsy McCoach

- Invited Prof. Betsy McCoach (EPSY) to attend and speak about Likert scaling as it relates to the SET.
    - Does it function as an ordinal or quasi-interval level scale? Discussion of where the cutoff should be (5 or 7 points)? Anything under 5 can't be considered interval; above, likely; above 7 certainly.
    - How many scale points? Must know the purpose of the scale. Should have some student voice in the evaluation process.
        - 5 should be the lower end. Shouldn't go below 5. Perhaps go up to 7.
    - Are we getting the optimal amount of variability? Too few points in the scale will limit variability; too many and the variation might be meaningless.
    - Could use mean, median or mode. Each tells us slightly different things.
- Likert vs Likert-type issue raised.
    - The focus of the unhappiness with the SET was discussed.
    - Different scale of Item 14 – need for education about scale.
    - 1 to 13 – perhaps these are baseline req's; not a high bar.
    - Do we run a risk of over-interp of the data in SETs, especially for APIRs who aren't judged on research?
    - Response rate – ways to manage/enhance it.
- **Possible changes**
- Delayed return of grades – get your grade earlier if you did the eval.
- Could we put 14 at a different place to make sure it was not perceived as a composite of 1-13?
- How about placing questions with different scales (like item 14) at the END of the survey?
- Prof. McCoach – peer evaluations are arguably the best way to do faculty teaching evaluations. But they are also very time intensive.
- **Discussion and tentative recommendations**
    - Prof. McCoach "validated" the existing measure. Bolstered the view that this is a good instrument.
    - Early release of grades?
    - Amend ordering of the questions as reported to make summary items stand out.
    - Report mean, median, mode.
    - Remove a couple of items for on-line courses.
    - Change "textbook" question to "course materials."
- The chair was charged to draft a report to send to the SEC.