Peer Review of Teaching - Recommendations for Fall 2020
Center for Teaching and Learning

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Recommendations for Fall 2020

Though this is an atypical semester, we wish to highlight some guiding principles as you consider the process of peer review for the Fall 2020 semester. **First**, there are strengths and weaknesses of peer review as a process and metric for determining teaching effectiveness, which is why we wish to highlight that it is only one of many metrics that should be used. **Second**, peer review of teaching could include the three basic elements of the peer review process, detailed below. Though it is always useful to review artifacts of a course in addition to observing class periods (such as syllabi, assignments, Moodle site, evidence of student learning), this is especially necessary when many courses have an increased amount of asynchronous contact. And **third**, the goals and priorities of the review process should be discussed in the preliminary interview prior to visiting a class. This discussion provides a framework for what the teacher and reviewer should expect.

Strengths of Peer Review of Teaching
- Reduces the heavy reliance on student evaluations
- Provides an additional metric for understanding teaching effectiveness
- Improves faculty teaching
- Creates relationships and dialogue between the observer and the teacher

Weaknesses of Peer Reviews of Teaching?
- The relationship between the peer reviewer and the teacher can bias the outcome of the review
- Reviews are only done over a select amount of course periods
- Reviews are only one part of the review process, and should be complemented by other metrics of effective teaching

Basic Elements of the Peer Review Process
1. Preliminary interview or discussion prior to reviewing or observing a class
2. Review or observation of class (via Zoom, in person, or review of asynchronous content)
3. Follow up discussion and report

Sample Peer Review Tools
- Classroom Observation Tools
  - Open-ended approach
  - Narrative log
  - Checklist sheet
- Rubrics
  - Observation Summary Rubric, with sample instructor behaviors
- Tools Designed for Remote or Hybrid Courses
  - Checklist, with more details here
  - Seven Principles of Teaching Peer-Review Guide (for face-to-face and hybrid courses)
  - Rubric for Peer-Review of Online and Hybrid courses

Resources Consulted (in addition to those linked above):
- https://www.colorado.edu/teaching-quality-framework/resources
- https://www.elon.edu/u/academics/catl/tlresources/assess-student-learning/peer-observation-of-teaching/
- https://cft.vanderbilt.edu/guides-sub-pages/peer-review-of-teaching/