

Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness---School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences

Teaching in the school is regularly evaluated in three ways. First, each semester students complete anonymous narrative comment forms and standardized rating forms that are used in all UTD courses; after processing, instructors receive comparative summaries of ratings and read all the narrative comments. Second, each semester the Associate Deans for Undergraduate and Graduate Studies in the school review student evaluations, distributions of grades, and course syllabi for all courses taught; instructors are given positive and corrective feedback where appropriate. Third, the school has a standing 6-member Teaching Effectiveness Committee that, on a rotating basis, conducts in-depth reviews of selected courses. One member of the committee observes one or more class sessions and writes an evaluative report that is shared with the instructor. After the conclusion of the semester, a 3-member subcommittee meets to prepare a written report based on the evaluation of course content (syllabus, readings, assignments, tests, etc.), grading (methods and distribution of course grades), class observations, and student ratings and comments. The subcommittee chair subsequently meets with the instructor to discuss the report and to explore possible ways to improve instruction. Reports are made available to the Dean for annual reviews and to promotion committees. These review processes appear to be yielding results. Most faculty report that they appreciate the constructive feedback and try to implement changes where appropriate. The evaluations of some faculty have steadily improved. In addition, since the inception of the evaluation system, two faculty, Dr. Larry Cauller and Dr. Marion Underwood, have won the university-wide award for most outstanding teacher of the year.