

Using Course Feedback from Students to Improve Teaching

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Purposes

- Improve instruction
- Provide additional data for personnel decisions

Research on Student Ratings

- Reliability
- Validity
- Correlates

Common Objections

- Only after students have graduated can they properly judge instructors
- Students are typically harsh in assessing instructors

Common Objections

(continued)

- An unfavorable rating in a single class can be disastrous
- Students and faculty disagree on who is an effective teacher

Choosing an Instrument for Student Ratings

- Adapting an existing form
- Format of the questionnaire
 - Length
 - Items

Administering the Rating Form

- Problems to Avoid
- Scheduling

Talking with Faculty to Improve Their Teaching

Guidelines:

- Demonstrate mutual trust and respect
- Encourage instructors to comment in light of their teaching and goals
- Focus discussion on teaching behaviors, not personality

Guidelines (continued)

- Talk about what effective teachers do and don't do
- Give teachers remedies for classroom problems
- Be specific and focused