

C-FSC Educational Policies and Faculty/Student Relations Committee

Date: February 01, 2019

Members: Scott Illingworth (Chair), Spiros Frangos, John Gershman, Fidelindo Lim, Noelle Molé Liston

Members of the committee met with the parallel T-FSC committee on January 31st, 2019 and with members of the the parallel T-FSC committee, Clay Shirky, and administrators from Steinhardt on December 13, 2018.

REPORT

The committee has been meeting with our T-FSC colleagues, on an initiative they began, to examine the consequences of the shift to online course evaluations. There is particular concern about the low response rate in certain schools and the potential for this to impact issues like AMI and promotion/retention/tenure. They are also aware and concerned about the way this leaves contract faculty vulnerable regarding contract renewals and the lack of standardization and clarity around the use of course evaluations in these processes.

In December, we met with Clay Shirky, Vice Provost for Educational Technologies, to gather information about the way the system operates and with administrators from Steinhardt to discuss some innovative initiatives they've used to improve response rate. In January, we met to discuss the key elements about which to gather data and divide responsibilities. The hope is to generate a joint report with recommendations that can be shared with both councils before the end of the academic year.

The committee also continues to gather data on how the spring admit pilot program is impacting contract faculty in relevant departments and what existing local policies about Add Comp, Paid/Unpaid leave, and course reductions might alter both explicit and implicit expectations about workload and schedule if the program were to expand. We hope to gather some more specifics this upcoming semester as the students matriculate and the impact, if any, becomes visible to faculty.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Illingworth