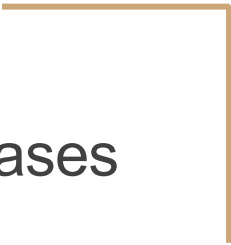


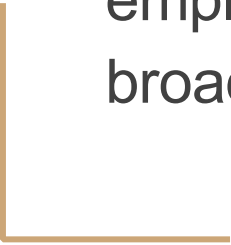
classroom
observations
& the
evaluation of
teaching

Center for Teaching,
Research & Learning





In spite of the well-documented short-comings and biases of Student Evaluations of Teaching (SET), the SET remains as the mainstay of how faculty are reviewed for merit, reappointment, tenure, and promotion.



As a counterweight to SETs, there is growing interest in employing classroom observation as a component of a broader approach to evaluating teaching.

agenda

Do observations play a role in how we evaluate teaching?

Types of classroom observation

Approaches observe teaching

What are best practices in classroom observation?

Discussion Questions (to start)

- What do participants feel should be the role of classroom observations?
- What are your concerns about classroom observations?
- What resources do faculty need to engage in meaningful observation?

types of classroom observations

observer — observed

formal — informal

summative — formative

in-person — video

classroom observations

why?

improve teaching practices
strengthen collegiality

why not?

another box-checking exercise
validity of tool – i.e., “observer effect”

feedback methods

Refer to Figures 2A and 2B

Brickman et al. (2106) [Making the Grade: Using Instructional Feedback and Evaluation to Inspire Evidence-Based Teaching](#). CBE - Life Science Education, 15:ar75, 1–14, Winter 2016

value of peer observations

Refer to Figures 2C

Brickman et al. (2106) [Making the Grade: Using Instructional Feedback and Evaluation to Inspire Evidence-Based Teaching](#). CBE - Life Science Education, 15:ar75, 1–14, Winter 2016

suggestions for best practices

define goal(s) and expectations

use a (standard) rubric for evaluation

have means to provide honest, constructive criticism

assess (evidence) and re-evaluate practice

ongoing process

should observations play a role in how we evaluate teaching?

In what ways do we currently evaluate teaching?

What types of observations are happening?

What are other institutions doing?

- Yale Center for Teaching & Learning: [Using Teaching Inventories and Classroom Observation Protocols](#)
- University of Southern California: [Peer Review and Evaluation](#)
- University of Oregon: Senate Resolution on [Continuous Improvement and Evaluation of Teaching System](#)

the scholarship of teaching & learning

Refer to Table 1 in

Engin, M. (2016). Enhancing the status of peer observation through the scholarship of teaching and learning. *International Journal for Academic Development*, 21(4), 377-382.

tools for peer and self evaluation

What's included on observation forms?

- Process
 - Pre- observation meeting
 - Timing
 - Post-observation
- Content
 - Form
 - Methods
 - Goals
- Who?

video self evaluation

Teacher education

- [Video reflection](#) in special education
- National Board [self observation](#)

Engagement (what does it look like?)

Analyzing teaching practices

- [Tripp, T., & Rich, P. \(2012\). Using video to analyze one's own teaching. *British Journal of Educational Technology*, 43\(4\), 678-704.](#)

discussion questions

- What do participants feel should be the role of classroom observations?
- What are your concerns about classroom observations?
- What resources do faculty need to engage in meaningful observation?