TO: The Academic Senate
FROM: Faculty Affairs Committee
SUBJECT: Student Evaluation of Courses: Revised wording of student evaluation instrument and Acceptance of Scantron through Spring 2013.

PURPOSE: For Action by the Academic Senate

ACTION REQUESTED: That the Academic Senate approve changes in the content of the student evaluation instrument and that Scantron’s “Class Climate” be accepted for use by both online and onground courses until review in Spring 2013; effective upon the signature of the President

INFORMATION: In a memo dated November 19, 2008, Academic Senate Chair Sue Opp reminded the FAC that on May 20, 2008 then Senate Chair Henry Reichman requested that FAC conduct “a more thorough and complete review of our policies, procedures and practices dealing with Student Evaluations of Teaching…and to consider the wisdom of adopting the Scantron product (or another product) in both online and traditional courses.”

As a first step in this process, the FAC met with Associate Vice President Carl Bellone on January 7, 2009, and with Professors Julie Glass and Nan Chico on January 21, 2009 to receive clarification on this request. In response to their input, and as a first step in the requested “thorough and complete review,” the FAC unanimously passed the following two motions.

(1) That question #6 on the current student evaluation be revised as follows, to become applicable to both online and traditional courses: “Classes met as scheduled; or if this was an online course, the instructor made the course material available as scheduled.”

(2) That Scantron’s “Class Climate”, which is available as an online evaluation tool as well as a hard copy document, be approved for student evaluation of courses for three years, ending at the close of the 2012-2013 academic year. The FAC recommends that FAC re-evaluate the effectiveness of Scantron’s “Class Climate” for student evaluations in Spring 2013.

(3) FAC recommends that the policy of voluntary use of the Scantron’s “Class Climate” online evaluation tool by traditional courses, as noted in 07-08 BEC 14, be continued.

(4) FAC plans to continue its review of the entire Student Evaluation of Courses Policy and to present a document to the Senate in the Spring, with a complete update.