



Resolution Number:	W-20-01	Sponsored By:	Senator Kyle Holcomb Senator Alex Hicks
Introduced On:	9 January 2020		
Voted On:	23 January 2020		
Result:	Passed		
Vote Count:	26-1-1		

A RESOLUTION TO: Publish a student perception survey based on teacher performance at the end of each semester, which will be publically available to students when choosing their course sections.

Recognizing, Grand Valley State University prides itself on being a student-focused university, and states that its primary focus is on the success of its students¹; and

Recognizing, a students' success within the classroom is contingent on a professor's teaching performance, which includes, but is not limited to, ability to communicate ideas effectively, provide useful feedback², and assist students in and out of the classroom³; and

Recognizing, Grand Valley already collects student exit data through the Laker Impressions of Faculty Teaching (LIFT); these responses are collected from students for the betterment of the professor; and

Whereas, a survey created with the intent of being collected from students for the betterment of other students could gather more pertinent information that students need when selecting courses; and

Whereas, this survey would be sent out attached to the end of the LIFT survey to avoid students from being sent too many exit survey requests; and

Whereas, this portion of the survey would state that it is collecting anonymous data for student usage and would not allow for comment responses, but only a sliding scale from very good to poor for each question asked; and

¹ <https://www.gvsu.edu/policies/policy.htm?policyId=4A6B4946-964C-4E87-1E31AC7FCA7936BD>

² <https://www.upressonline.com/2018/02/spots-faqs-2/>

³ <https://opir.fiu.edu/faculty-evaluations.htm>

Recognizing, that other higher education institutions, such as Florida International University⁴ and Vanderbilt University⁵, already utilize a similar survey called Student Perception of Teaching (SPOT); and

Whereas, these universities recognize that the onus of providing the most accurate information about professors is on them and to ensure that their students can make the best and most informed decision regarding their finance and education instead of letting them seek out information that may not be truthful elsewhere; and

Recognizing, many students currently utilize the 3rd party website, RateMyProfessors.com, to determine the instructor and course section they will take, with the website having over 4 million users total⁶; and

Whereas, RateMyProfessors.com users are generally students who had strong feelings regarding their professor's performance, and is therefore biased; and

Whereas, instructors can go years without receiving a review on RateMyProfessors.com, despite their teaching style potentially improving, worsening, or otherwise changing; and

Recognizing, that more students per class complete LIFT surveys than a RateMyProfessors.com review so students are left without the most accurate data possible when deciding classes; and

Recognizing, that this data would be collected for student use, and therefore should not be included in a professor's personnel documents or included in discussions revolving employment and tenure;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the Grand Valley State University Student Senate, acting on behalf of the student body, advocates for the creation of a student perception survey that evaluates teaching performance, alongside the LIFT survey, that would create data for students to be able to use when determining course selection.

Furthermore, Let It Be Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Grand Valley State University Academic Senate upon passing to seek further approval and implementation.

⁴ <https://aim.fiu.edu/faculty-evaluations.htm>

⁵ <https://vanderbilthustler.com/27580/featured/rate-my-vandy-professors-students-and-faculty-weigh-in-course-evaluation-platforms/>

⁶ <https://www.ratemyprofessors.com/About.jsp>