Teaching with Technology Tip  
Mid-term Student Evaluations—Checking the Pulse of your Course.

Soliciting feedback from your students at mid-term gives them a voice in the course, and provides you with opportunities to discuss your teaching goals and make adjustments if appropriate. Mid-term evaluations may have distinct benefits: (a) the information can be used to make changes during the current course; (b) students feel empowered to help design their own educational process; (c) it allows an assessment of specific behaviors rather than a global "quality of teaching" rating; (d) instructors can ask for the information most pertinent to them—even soliciting criticism; and (e) the evaluations go directly to the instructor. (Keutzer, 1993). In addition, mid-term evaluations may increase end-of-semester evaluation response rates (University Leadership Council, 2009).

There are several ways to solicit the feedback. This tip will review a few of them.

**Small Group Instructional Diagnosis (SGIDs).** This is a voluntary, confidential feedback process that enables instructors to get frank, useful comments from students on a course that is still in progress. Designed to increase communication between the students and the instructor, with the aim of improving learning in the class, the process uses small group student interviews to identify strengths of the course, areas of student concern, and possible ways to address those concerns. The SGID process is coordinated by the Office of Instructional Development (OID). Here is a link for more information: [http://www.und.edu/dept/oid/sgid.htm](http://www.und.edu/dept/oid/sgid.htm)

**Qualtrics.** Building a short survey in Qualtrics provides student anonymity, allows students to respond using their mobile devices, and generates results quickly and graphically in tables or charts. Qualtrics offers a wide variety of question choices above and beyond the standard Likert-scale, multiple choice/answer, and comment questions. Other options include ranking and drag-and-drop questions.

**Blackboard Survey.** Individual student responses will be aggregated for anonymity, however a column in the Grade Center will reveal which students completed the survey. Thus, Qualtrics is recommended to maintain anonymity; it also quickly reports results.

**Blackboard Discussion Forums.** Students may post anonymous responses to questions, and other students and the instructor can see and add to or respond to them. This may be useful for generating discussion about aspects of the course. Be sure to check the “allow anonymous posts” options when setting up the forum.

Evaluation might focus on such topics as understanding course objectives and their relevance, perception of the organization and presentation of material, attitudes toward grading and testing, and instructor interactions. A survey may contain specific questions on content or interactions, or include broad open-ended questions such as these:

- What has been helpful to you in learning the material in this course?
- What has not been helpful in learning the material in this course?
- Please add any additional comments about your learning experience in this course.

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