

DRAFT
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NEW COURSE EVALUATION SYSTEM PROJECT
University of Florida

1. Project:

The main course evaluation system at UF—GatorRater—needs updating. The questions date from the Board of Regents in the 1990s, and the program software is nearing 10 years old. There are excellent commercial software products available that work with Canvas. We are taking this opportunity to update the questions as well as the system.

To facilitate this process, a Task Force from the Provost's Office and the Office of Faculty Development & Teaching Excellence have been working with the Faculty Senate Welfare Council and Academic Policy Council to gather and sift information on potential evaluation questions and software products. As a next step, the Task Force seeks input from faculty regarding both the questions and three commercially-available products that work with Canvas.¹ Our goals are to:

- (1) maintain a course evaluation system useful for both instructor feedback and personnel evaluations;
- (2) adopt a product that will provide a user-friendly, flexible experience for faculty and students;
- (3) create course evaluations that better reflect the different instructional modalities now in use; and
- (4) make clear distinctions between evaluations of the course, the instructor, and the student.

The new course evaluation system will have three main categories (course evaluation, instructor evaluation, and student self-evaluation) and three focused categories that can be used for specific purposes (supplemental questions, online/distance evaluation questions and lab/clinical evaluation questions).

2. Task Force Members:

- ✓ Jennifer Smith, Director, Office of Faculty Development & Teaching Excellence
- ✓ John Jordi, Learning and Organizational Development Specialist, Office of Faculty Development & Teaching Excellence
- ✓ Adam Heward, IT Manager, UFIT
- ✓ Wanda Garfield, User Support Specialist, UFIT
- ✓ Jane Thomas, IT Business Relations Manager, OPT System, ES
- ✓ Carol Cobb, Project Designer, OPT System, ES
- ✓ Hans van Oostrom, Associate Professor and Director, Institute for Excellence in Engineering Education, Academic Policy Council liaison
- ✓ Ray Thomas, Associate in Geology, Welfare Counsel liaison
- ✓ Jeannie Starobin, Associate Director, UF Online
- ✓ Angela Lindner, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs
- ✓ Angel Kwolek-Folland, Associate Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs

Once the project moves into the implementation phase, representatives from additional campus areas will be added to the project working group.

3. Feedback process:

Among the requirements for the new system are: ability to do mid-term evaluations, adjustable for different instructional modalities and types of classes (labs, online, clinical instruction, etc.), ability to do free-response comments, ADA compliance, interactivity with technologies (phone, tablet, PC, etc.), reporting functions, integration with university Student Information System and Learning Management System, automated faculty and administrative reporting, and real-time response rates.

Information on the three commercial software products is available in the [GaterRater Canvas Course](#). Each product will integrate with Canvas, but each one has different features, strengths and weaknesses. None of the providers has given us a specific proposal since we still are gathering information on how to configure the new system. However, in general, the price for their base systems is comparable; additional features beyond the base would increase the costs and would be negotiated depending on what makes the best system for UF.

The base evaluation will contain three sets of three questions each covering the course, the instructor, and the student self-evaluation. To provide feedback on the updates to the evaluation questions, please take the [GaterRater Faculty Feedback Survey](#).

4. Timeline:

The survey and feedback page will be available until February 5, 2018. The Task Force will analyze the results and report to the Faculty Senate. This report will form the basis for the invitation for proposals from one or more of the commercial vendors, depending on the features requested. The vendor will then work with Enterprise Systems and other UF offices to implement the system, no later than the Spring 2019 semester.

¹ Students will be queried in a separate process.