

To: Cabinet Members
From: Committee on Teaching
Date: April 3, 2006
RE: BEST Evaluations and Trustees' Award Due Date

06.32

Issue #1: Best Evaluations

The CoT recommends that two global items from BEST must be included by all faculty on their 2006 course evaluations in order to be considered for a Trustees' Teaching Award:

1. Overall, I would rate the quality of this course as outstanding.
2. Overall, I would rate this instructor as outstanding.

Rationale: it is impossible to validly compare course evaluation data when faculty include different item sets, which they do, and which are idiosyncratic among faculty. Therefore, we recommend that the above two items be mandatory for all departments.

Furthermore, these have been two of the most consistently correlated items with student learning achievement. According to a meta-analysis by Cohen (1981) in the Review of Educational research, global items such as these correlated an average of .47 and .43 respectively with measures of student learning achievement in college courses.

See the first result from searching Google Scholar:

<http://scholar.google.com/scholar?q=course+evaluation+student+achievement+college+university&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&hl=en&btnG=Search>

This is the most frequently cited article on this issue, not only in Google Scholar but also in the Web of Science.

Issue #2: Trustees' Award Deadline

The CoT also recommends that the department chairs inform the nominees for the Trustees' Award by February 20. The Trustees' binders need to be submitted by March 10 in order for the CoT ad hoc to select recipients by April 1 (the Indiana University deadline).