

Peer review of teaching is most informative for course or curricular issues, currency of course content; course organization; appropriateness of course objectives, assessment methods, support of departmental instructional efforts (Centra, 1993). The peer review process is based on an understanding of the work that faculty are expected to do, the skills that are required to do the work, and the criteria to be applied (Theall, 2008).

The process includes all stakeholders in decisions about the process and/or policy and is supported by faculty and administration. Peer review might entail materials review (e.g., syllabus, test, student work) and/or classroom observations by peers in the same academic unit / sometimes institutional peers. Peer review tends to be academic program or institution-specific.

Guidelines from the Literature:

It is recommended to establish a system that

- is clearly understood and articulated
- is systematic and transparent
- is practical, feasible, and relevant
- rooted in local discussion and shared understanding of what elements define effective teaching
- offers reviewer preparation
- supports dialogue about teaching and student learning and is perceived as a valued process
- is integrated into other performance systems (award decisions, 2-year review, promotion & tenure, post-tenure review)
- includes ongoing efforts in improving the peer review process
- offers resources for improvement and support

Potential Purpose:

- Value for the individual and for the academic program
- Formative (improvement-based); Summative (for personnel decisions)
- Enhance and make visible quality teaching and how teaching supports student learning

Issues to Consider Regarding Process and Procedures:

- Acknowledges variations in teaching contexts and individual approaches
- Instrumentation, timing, frequency of data collection
- Protocols (e.g., selection and training of reviewers)
- Mutually agreed upon elements and criteria as sources of evidence and a basis for evaluation

Consideration in Reporting of Results:

- Data analysis and interpretation, nature of reporting, standard reporting format for personnel purposes

In summary, the