

MEMORANDUM

To: FIU Faculty

From: Meredith A. Newman, Vice Provost for Faculty and Global Affairs
Isis Artze-Vega, Assistant Vice President, Teaching & Learning

Date: November 15, 2017

Subject: All Course Ratings Online this Fall

Recognizing the crucial role that teaching plays in student success, and the limitations of our current mechanisms for evaluating and incentivizing excellent teaching, Provost Furton has asked us to co-chair a committee charged with issuing guidelines for evaluating teaching and rewarding excellent teaching. We began by assembling two faculty workgroups – one focused on teaching evaluation and one focused on incentivizing teaching excellence, both with varied University representation.

As an important first step, the Provost asked us to ensure that all student evaluations would be administered online this Fall, so that you can benefit from timely student feedback. This Thursday, all students enrolled in Fall 2017 courses will be sent an email with the link to complete their course ratings, which will now be known as SPOTs: Student Perceptions of Teaching surveys, in recognition that the results are *perceptions* as opposed to evaluations or assessments of teaching.

We have also enhanced the process by which the results are shared with you. On December 20th, the day after final grades are posted, you will be sent an email with a link to all of your SPOTs results – both quantitative and qualitative.

Finally, because many of our colleagues are understandably concerned about low response rates on online ratings, we have devised an early grade viewing incentive for students. They will be able to see their grades before the official grade release for each course for which they have completed the SPOTs. We will also share strategies for increasing response rates in the email notification you will receive this Thursday, notifying you that the SPOTs process has begun.

In the meantime, the Evaluating Teaching workgroup is working diligently to propose recommendations for a more comprehensive teaching evaluation process, one that does not simply rely on students' perceptions.

Thank you for your assistance with this move to an online process, and please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions, concerns, or suggestions related to this important endeavor.