MEMORANDUM

TO: ECU Faculty Official

FROM: Grant Hayes, PhD
Interim Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

DATE: January 5, 2021

SUBJ: Survey of Student Opinion of Instruction (SSOI)

First, let me commend the extraordinary efforts that you have made to respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of you have made significant modifications to your instruction in order to continue effectively serving our students. I recognize the current crisis may have caused disruptions to your teaching, research/scholarship/creative activity, and service goals. While we remain committed to recognizing and rewarding high standards of excellence in all three mission areas, we do acknowledge that COVID-19 has not allowed for optimal instructional environments for many faculty. To that end, I know that some of you may have questions about the Survey of Student Opinion of Instruction (SSOI).

In consultation with the Faculty Senate’s General Education and Instructional Effectiveness Committee, it is an institutional expectation that instructors include Fall 2020 SSOI results in their Annual Report, PAD, and/or Portfolio. As a reminder, SSOI should never be used as the sole basis for evaluating teaching; the weight assigned to SSOI results should reflect the fact that the SSOI is only one of twenty-nine factors that evaluators must consider when evaluating teaching.

Despite your admirable and creative work transitioning courses to remote instruction, it is possible that circumstances related to the pandemic may adversely affect SSOI scores. Therefore, it is critically important that all evaluators comprehensively approach faculty evaluations with creativity, flexibility and understanding. When considering SSOI scores for evaluation purposes, I urge evaluators to be mindful of the unusual circumstances we are in.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Purificación Martínez (Chair of the Faculty) or me.

Thank you for all you do.