



September 10, 2012

Lynn Williams, Ph.D.
Chair, Academic Senate
California State University, Fresno
5241 North Maple Avenue M/S TA43
Fresno, CA 93740

Dear Dr. Williams,

I am writing with regard to Item 9 on the Academic Senate Meeting Agenda for September 10, 2012, "Potential Changes to APM 322a (Guide to creating a departmental policy on assessment of teaching effectiveness)".

As previously discussed at the August 27, 2012, Executive Committee Meeting, I have concerns regarding the minimum number of sections evaluated by students annually. I would like to reiterate that requiring a minimum of two sections raises the issue of quality control. Teaching effectiveness may be compromised should a section fail to be evaluated.

APM 322 does not make clear a pathway for students to request that additional sections taught by a professor be evaluated. It also does not specific a pathway for students to do so anonymously should the need arise.

APM 322 does not address the frequency with which tenured faculty are to be evaluated by students. Further, it does not require that graduate courses be evaluated with the same rigor. This oversight again leaves the door open for teaching effectiveness to be compromised.

Finally, from my research it does not appear that Department Policies regarding the evaluation of teaching effectiveness are available online. I ask that this be remedied as quickly as possible for the benefit of faculty and students alike.

APM 327 refers to teaching as a “scholarly act” and states that “teaching is the most important responsibility faculty members have.” In my experience, the faculty at California State University, Fresno, has more than lived up to this calling and responsibility. These concerns are respectfully submitted so that we can continue to offer the same quality of instruction to all students and aid faculty in the fulfillment of their scholarly duties. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Arthur Montejano', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Arthur Montejano

President, Fresno State Associated Students, Inc.