

## **Proposal to Change Timeline for Course Evaluations**

October 20, 2016

In the Spring 2016 term, course evaluation reports for Arts and Sciences courses were systematically published for the first time. To gauge student experiences and reactions, members of the Working Group met with College and General Studies student representatives. The first issue the students raised was that the deadline to complete the evaluations was too early, being set for the day before finals began. Many students expressed concern and frustration that evaluations were due during this period of increased workload and generally increased stress levels. They argued, instead, for a longer evaluation period that will allow students to reflect on the course at a time when demands on their time are less intense. Students also argued that the current evaluation timeline does not allow them to provide feedback on the final exam, assignment or paper. Over the course of the spring term, some faculty and instructors throughout Arts and Sciences have made analogous arguments. It should be noted that this was also raised when the initial EPPC Course Evaluation Guidelines were developed but there was concern about changing too many components at once.

If the timeline is extended, it is critical that students do not have access to their grades before completing the evaluation (as before, faculty will not see evaluation results before assigning grades). It will be necessary to block early access to grades until either (1) their evaluations are completed or (2) they explicitly opted out of completing them. After the evaluations are closed, students will have access to all grades.

The proposal is as follows:

*Course evaluations will be available for students to complete beginning seven days before the last day of classes until 2 business days after the deadline for the submission of grades. If and when a student has completed or actively opted out of an evaluation for the course, they will have early access to the grade of that course the following day. Otherwise, they will have access to grades the day after evaluations close.*

*Hypothetical: According to this policy, this fall evaluations would open on Monday, December 5 and close on Thursday, January 5 (grades are due on Tuesday, January 3).*

The implementation of such a proposal would, at the earliest, be Fall 2018.