Stories from Your Colleagues

The results are in from the end-of-semester student eSurveys from Fall 2014: the overall response rate across the university was 65% (up from a 60% response rate a year ago). 100 of your colleagues received 80% eSurvey response rates or higher. Here are some of their strategies & best practices:

“"I gave extra credit if the response rate went above 90%, made announcements in the News section of D2L, and sent our reminder e-mails using the SmartEvals system.” -- Jen Banas, HPERA

“My whole department uses eSurveys, so students know that’s how they rate teaching. I used brief mid-term surveys, so students actually saw changes I made in response to their feedback. I also opened more choices on the exam if the response rate went above 95%.” -- Andrew Brake, SWK

“I reminded my students incessantly and told them that I was judged on their evaluations: particularly enticing to my FYI class. I also used a soupçon of guilt if the response rate was poor early on: (Sigh. Concerned look). ‘I see only 37% of you responded to the course evaluation.’ (Disappointed face). ‘You know it is really important for you to do the survey because it does go into my tenure portfolio, and it gives me a chance to improve the class for next time!’” -- Siobhan Cooke, ANTH

“I put the course evals in the syllabus, with a bit of humor:

Week 15: Look for course eval in D2L. Can't find it? Ask me!
Week 16: Got that course eval done yet? Get it done and I go away!
Students enjoy the humor and like telling me to 'go away!' I also take time in class to show the students where the links are.” -- Laura Tejada, COUN

“I made my class take the eSurvey at the beginning of an in-class session. Then I offered a very small extra credit incentive if the class reached 90% response rate.” -- Francisco Iacobelli, CS

“I announced in class that eSurveys were coming, and I created animated D2L News item to remind students: http://goo.gl/UeYdNs and http://goo.gl/MeDZn2.” -- Shirley Caruso, HRD

“It was actually quite simple. I had 35 students in class and said that if I received 33 responses, everyone would get 5 extra credit points (only 1% of the possible points). I then used the next two class periods to report on the results, based on what I saw in the SmartEvals system.” -- Jack Butler, MNGT
Is Your Department Not Using eSurveys Yet?

Talk with your department chair and colleagues, and get in touch with a department that is currently using eSurveys to support their end-of-semester student-evaluation needs. Departments must request Spring term eSurveys by March 20 (see http://homepages.neiu.edu/~ctl/esurveys.html).

Benefits of Electronic Student Evaluations

- Immediate results released to faculty just 3 days after grades are due.
- Create PDF files of your eSurvey results with just three clicks.
- You can include custom questions (reported to the instructor only).

Breakdown of Fall 2014 eSurvey Results

> 58% response rate = statistically valid results for courses with 20+ students (Nulty, p 310).