The Ad Hoc Committee met September 28, 2018 with the following members in attendance: William Self, chair; Kevin Coffey, CECS; Reshawna Chapple, CHPS; Zhongzhou Chen, COS; Eric Main, FCTL; Silvana Sidhom, SGA Graduate Studies senator; Jesse Slomowitz, SGA CAH senator.

OVERVIEW
The new SPOI questions were approved by the Faculty Senate in 2013. On November 20, 2013 the Faculty Senate approved the SPOI results to be posted online. In August 2017, the Student Government Association (SGA) approached the Faculty Senate Steering Committee to make the SPOI data more accessible to students by putting the data in myUCF, and in an easier format for students to review a particular faculty member. The Steering Committee assigned the issue to the Information Technology Committee for 2017-2018. The committee discussed the issue within the committee and with faculty within the colleges. See Minutes of 9-25-2017, 1-9-2018, 1-22-2018, and 2-13-2018.
The committee determined that the SPOI data is currently available on the UCF IT website and no change was recommended.

In August 2018, the SGA presented Resolution 50-57 Increasing Transparency of Student Perception of Instruction Surveys requesting the Faculty Senate make the SPOI data more readily available for transparency. SGA discussed the University of Florida’s system called GatorRater which is available to all faculty and staff. The Faculty Senate Steering Committee formed an Ad Hoc Committee to address the issue.

ISSUE
Dr. Self talked to Dr. Chris Hass, Associate Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs and Dr. John Jordi in the Office of Faculty Development and Teaching Excellence who oversees GatorRater at the University of Florida. Dr. Hass indicated that Rice University was one of the first universities to allow access to the results and linked to the schedule of courses. The University of Florida developed an in-house program available to the public and is searchable by instructor or course. The university deployed GatorRater, a customized program offered by Explorance Blue that allows faculty and staff to log-in for more details funded by a Technology Fee grant. Florida State University has a similar system. Due to faculty concerns regarding bad questions, questions leading to bias, questions geared more to evaluating the instructor instead of the course, the University of Florida developed a long list of standard optional questions in addition to the core questions. The colleges and potentially the departments can choose to add five additional questions to the evaluation in addition to the core questions based on the college/department need. It took the university two years to review the questions. The university will be adding a mid-term evaluation option. The university is now piloting the improved and customized evaluation university-wide. To encourage participation, the university allows students to receive their grades a week early for those students that completed the evaluations. Those students that didn’t complete the evaluation have to
wait to access grades. Once the surveys are past due, Canvas is shut down to not allow access to grades until the survey is complete.

DISCUSSION
Below is a summary of the issues raised during discussion:

- The Collegiate Cyber Defense Club (also known as Hack@UCF) is willing to take SPoI on as a small project.
- The university needs to own the information versus students placing the information on the website. The students, faculty, and administration need the SPoI data.
- SPoI results are already available to the public online at UCF IT. The data is hard to find and contained in a 15,000-page Adobe pdf and an Excel .cvs format. Sometimes the web site goes down.
- SPoI doesn’t relate to learning, subjected to bias, and if provided to students without context, the data can skew a student’s impression of a course.
- Concerned that the completion of the SPoI for students is forced under the wrong conditions and time. Because of the timing, students Christmas tree the responses in order to continue.
- Faculty value the feedback, but the current system contains SPoI data errors due to multiple instructors or teaching assistants.
- The Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning would like to form focus groups and provide surveys to identify improvement opportunities.
- SPoI can be emotional as it can impact faculty promotion and tenure. Need a long-term vision for the questions. In the short-term we need to show integrity and not hide the data.
- Some faculty will feel threatened if the results are in the course search for scheduling.
- The issue is to make the information more readily accessible for students which is already public and being used by students and the faculty; can improve it later.
- Concerned that SPoI results will get pushed to be easily accessible with no plan to improve the questions.
- Students already use Rate my professor and ask other friends about courses and professors.
- Want a continuous effort to improve the process, make the information useful to students and faculty in order to interpret the data correctly.
- Outside of grade distributions, the SPoI data is the only readily available data to chairs and an over reliance on the data can have negative consequences.
- The weakness of SPoI is the low response rate. We need to add a “carrot” to encourage completion.
- In the next year faculty will be required to enter all grades in gradebook. This eliminates a potential “carrot” of accessing grades.
• Don’t want punitive punishment to students for non-completion. The SPoI has to be meaningful to students. If the results are available at course scheduling, more students will respond. Better to pop-up as a reminder to allow the students to complete later under less stressful circumstances with only x times to bypass.
• Many students take the evaluation seriously and want their voice heard.
• Currently students are not given information as to why and what is done with SPoI results. They are only sent an email requesting completion. With access and information, SPoI will be more meaningful to students and will have a purpose to complete the evaluations.
• Flaws in data when a faculty member teaches a course designed by a different faculty member.
• What is the University of Florida’s response rate?

RECOMMENDATIONS
The Ad Hoc Committee made the following recommendations:
1. In response to student concerns, immediately make the Student Perception of Instruction Results easily accessible to students and faculty.
2. Make the evaluations optional to complete, even if for a pilot period with active reminders.
3. Create a Task Force to include the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, students from SGA, administration, and faculty to review questions, validity, and better way to evaluate teaching and define the role of SPoI in the evaluation.
4. Provide students with information to interpret the data and a disclaimer regarding bias.
5. Add a link to the email sent to students to the SPoI results so students have a purpose to complete.

Accepted by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee on February 7, 2019.