WHEREAS, Senate Rule 2.1 (F) (4) states that the Student Body Advocacy (SBA) Committee is to be in constant review of student affairs and matters including, but not limited to, educational, environmental, economic, transportation, health, and safety concerns on and beyond the University of Central Florida campuses that affects the students at the University of Central Florida;

WHEREAS, Senate Rule 5.01 (A) (3) (ii) states that a Resolution pertains to every measure expressing the sentiment of the Senate of the Student Government Association (SGA) who represents 66,183 students of the University of Central Florida (UCF);

WHEREAS, “Student Perception of Instruction Survey” (SPOI) are student course evaluations administered at the end of each semester during the last 15 days of the class;

WHEREAS, SPOI results are published in the format of a massive combined PDF document and Excel sheet;

WHEREAS, SPOI results are publicly accessible online at http://net1019.net.ucf.edu/spi.html for all students and faculty to view;

WHEREAS, Said website is not advertised to students and not easily accessible;

WHEREAS, The current format is not easily navigable nor understandable by the student body;

WHEREAS, On November 30, 2013, the Faculty Senate approved the web publication of the responses for all nine SPOI multiple choice questions but not written comments;

WHEREAS, These issues were brought to the Faculty Senate’s attention by SGA nearly a year ago during their annual Steering Committee, on August 17, 2017 and was remanded to the Information Technology (IT) Committee;

WHEREAS, Faculty Senate IT Committee discussed several issues associated with SPOIs including overall low response rate of 60%, wish of SGA to make these results more accessible for students, and outsourcing to 3rd party;

WHEREAS, Convenient access to the results of SPOI will be most effective driver for increasing response rate;

WHEREAS, Faculty Senate IT Committee identified faculty issue with making SPOI data more accessible;

WHEREAS, It is some faculty’s opinion that making comments available along with data from the nine multiple choice questions could ease such worries and provide additional background to numerical data currently available;

WHEREAS, IT Committee is also in discussion with third party Explorance Blue regarding an overhaul of the current SPOI system;

WHEREAS, Suggested overhaul is a prime opportunity to increase transparency and accessibility of SPOI data;

WHEREAS, IT Committee suggested such overhaul could include a Dashboard on which students could view SPOI results pending said approval of data release by faculty;

WHEREAS, Inclusion of data analytics, graphs and visuals in proposed overhaul for further interpretation of the data by students as well as faculty will increase faculty accountability and excellence, one of the key priority metrics outlined in UCF’s strategic plan;
WHEREAS, IT Committee’s last discussion of the issue resulting in resolution titled Student Perception of Instruction Resolution on February 26th 2018, did not offer any resolution to this issue;
WHEREAS, Faculty cited concerns that those faculty with bad ratings would not want SPOIs to be released and can feel exposed;
WHEREAS, Attempts to gain approval from faculty to make already public data more accessible raises transparency issues;
WHEREAS, Increased SPOI transparency would better allow students the possibility to affect, reflect upon and take responsibility for their own learning while also giving important information for course enhancement; and
WHEREAS, Chair of the Faculty Senate has assured SGA that they are “engaged in working toward a better process for students” and the issue of SPOI transparency will be again reviewed by the Steering committee on August 16, 2018;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That it is the opinion of the Fiftieth Student Body Senate of the University of Central Florida that the publicly accessible Student Perception of Instruction Surveys (SPOI) be available to students in a transparent manner within the next academic year with widespread access for students to the survey by including the aforementioned web address where SPOI data can be found in the emails sent out on a semester basis to students regarding completion of SPOIs; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Results as well as additional relevant data such as grade distributions, overall ratings for faculty and provision of graphs and other visuals for enhanced transparency and faculty accountability be available to students, in a similar manner to evaluations from a representative university found here: http://file.big.su.se/_html/studentportal/region/kursvarden.html#en and suggestion for data output in such a format be proposed and included in all further discussions with any third-party vendors;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to, UCF President-Dale Whittaker, the UCF Board of Trustees, Interim Provost Dr. Elizabeth A. Dooley, UCF Vice President for Information Technologies & Resources and Chief Information Officer Joel Hartman, Faculty Senate Chair Dr. William T. Self and Faculty Senate IT Committee Chair Dr. Reid Oetjen.

AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES

Ashley Sampson
Senate President

Sierra Scott
Senate President Pro Tempore

Date 7/27/18

Date 7-27-18