Background Report:

Comparing Sample Course Evaluation Questions with Existing Question Sets used by Waterloo Faculties

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Team Members
Course Evaluation Project

September 27, 2016
PROPOSED QUESTION MODEL

- Cascaded Questions:
  - Core institution-wide questions
  - Optional additional questions chosen by Faculty, Department and/or Instructors
- Evaluation across three dimensions of effective teaching (4 questions each plus one cross-dimensional):
  - Course Design
  - Course Delivery
  - Learning Experience
- Core question break-down:
  - Likert: up to 10
  - Open: up to 3 (grey shading)
- Optional additional questions
  - Maximum 6 from fixed database
  - Chosen by Faculty, Department or Instructor (can include existing Faculty questions)

DRAFT QUESTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Design Dimension</th>
<th>Course Delivery Dimension</th>
<th>Learning Experience Dimension</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I knew what I was expected to learn in this course</td>
<td>The instructor returned graded work in a reasonable amount of time</td>
<td>The most important thing I learned in this course was</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The graded work assessed what I was expected to learn</td>
<td>The instructor was a clear communicator</td>
<td>Overall, I learned a great deal from this instructor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The course activities prepared me for the graded work</td>
<td>The instructor created a supportive environment that helped me learn</td>
<td>Overall, the quality of my learning experience in this course was excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The coursework demands were...(different Likert scale)</td>
<td>The instructor stimulated my interest in this course</td>
<td>What helped me to learn in this course?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What changes, if any, would I suggest for this course?

NUMBER AND FORMAT COMPARISON OF DRAFT QUESTIONS WITH CURRENT FACULTY QUESTIONS

Total Questions: 19 (proposed) vs. 17 to 23 (current)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PROPOSED</th>
<th>AHS</th>
<th>ARTS</th>
<th>ENG</th>
<th>ENV</th>
<th>MATH</th>
<th>SCI</th>
<th>CEL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
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</table>
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**CONTENT COMPARISON OF DRAFT QUESTIONS TO CURRENT FACULTY QUESTIONS**

Notes:
- ✓ = Relevant/related concept being evaluated
- Grey shading = open question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROPOSED</th>
<th>AHS</th>
<th>ARTS</th>
<th>ENG</th>
<th>ENV</th>
<th>MATH</th>
<th>SCI</th>
<th>CEL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I knew what I was expected to learn in this course</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The graded work assessed what I was expected to learn</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The course activities prepared me for the graded work</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>The coursework demands were...</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>(different Likert scale)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The instructor returned graded work in a reasonable amount of time</td>
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<tr>
<td>The instructor was a clear communicator</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>The instructor created a supportive environment that helped me learn</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>The instructor stimulated my interest in this course</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall, I learned a great deal from this instructor</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall, the quality of my learning experience in this course was excellent</td>
<td></td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>The most important thing I learned in this course was</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What helped me to learn in this course?</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What changes, if any, would I suggest for this course?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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**FACULTY QUESTIONS JUDGED TO BE RELEVANT/RELATED TO PROPOSED QUESTIONS**

Notes:  Underlined text = Open question  
Bold text = Relevant feature of question

- I knew what I was expected to learn in this course:  
  o CEL:  Expectations for learning were clearly communicated

- The graded work assessed what I was expected to learn:  
  o ENG:  How well did the tests reflect the course material?  
  o SCI:  The mid-term tests were a fair test of the material covered?  
  o CEL:  The assignments, activities, and content helped me achieve the stated learning objectives

- The course activities prepared me for the graded work:  
  o ENG:  To what extent did the assignments contribute to your better understanding of the concepts?  
  o MATH:  Was the assigned work (assignments, projects, etc.) helpful in learning the course content?  
  o SCI:  How useful are the labs in promoting fuller understanding of the subject?  
  o CEL:  The assignments, activities, and content helped me achieve the stated learning objectives

- The coursework demands were...:  
  o AHS:  Rate this course with respect to: workload demands upon the student  
  o ARTS:  Rate this course with respect to: workload demands upon the student  
  o ENG:  Rate the workload required to complete this course  
  o ENV:  The amount of work required for this course compared with others I have taken at the same credit weighting and level  
  o MATH:  Was the amount of assigned work required for the course appropriate?  
  o MATH:  On average, how many hours per week did you spend on this course outside of lectures?  
  o SCI:  Rate the load of assigned work in this course compared to others you are now taking  
  o CEL:  On average, I spent x hours per week working on this course (options provided)

- The instructor was a clear communicator:  
  o AHS:  Rate this course with respect to: presentation of course/lab material  
  o ARTS:  Rate this course with respect to: presentation of course material  
  o ENG:  Rate your professor’s oral presentation in terms of audibility, articulation, and your ability to understand his/her English  
  o ENG:  Rate your professor’s visual presentation. Consider organization, legibility and effective use of materials (Blackboard, electronic media, etc)  
  o ENG:  How would you rate the professor’s response to questions?  
  o ENG:  At what level were the professor’s explanations usually directed, in relation to your general level of understanding?  
  o ENV:  Assess specific aspects of the instructor’s work: communication skills  
  o MATH:  At what level were the instructor’s explanations aimed?  
  o MATH:  Evaluate the instructor’s treatment of students’ questions
Course Evaluation Project

- MATH: Evaluate the effectiveness of the instructor’s visual presentation (blackboard, overheads, etc.)
- MATH: Evaluate the effectiveness of the instructor’s oral presentation
- SCI: Rate your professor’s oral presentation in terms of audibility, articulation and your ability to understand him or her
- SCI: Rate your professor’s visual presentations
- SCI: Rate your professor’s responses to questions
- CEL: The instructor’s explanations were clear and understandable

- The instructor created a supportive environment that helped me learn:
  - AHS: Rate this course with respect to: instructor’s attitude toward and interest in students
  - ARTS: Rate this course with respect to: instructor’s attitude toward and interest in students
  - ENG: Describe the availability and approachability of your professor outside of class compared to other courses you’ve taken at university
  - ENG: What was your impression of your professor’s attitude towards teaching the course?
  - ENG: Describe your professor class relationship
  - ENV: Assess specific aspects of the instructor’s work: commitment/enthusiasm about the course
  - ENV: Assess specific aspects of the instructor’s work: availability for consultation during regularly scheduled times
  - ENV: Assess specific aspects of the instructor’s work: helpfulness toward students
  - MATH: Was the class atmosphere affected either positively or negatively by attitudes of the instructor or students (e.g., with respect to gender, race, ability, appearance).
  - SCI: Rate your professor’s attitude toward teaching in this course
  - CEL: The general climate in the course was good for learning
  - CEL: The instructor related to students in a way that promoted mutual respect
  - CEL: The instructor was helpful to students seeking guidance

- The instructor stimulated my interest in this course:
  - AHS: Rate this course with respect to: ability to maintain student interest
  - ARTS: Rate this course with respect to: ability to maintain student interest
  - MATH: Did you find the course interesting?

- Overall, I learned a great deal from this instructor:
  - ENV: Assess effectiveness of the course/studio: the amount you learned
  - CEL: Overall, I learned a great deal from the instructor

- Overall, the quality of my learning experience in this course was excellent:
  - SCI: Relative to the other courses I have taken this term, I have found the educational and/or professional value of this course...
Course Evaluation Project

- What changes, if any, would I suggest for this course?
  - ENG: Your professor would also like to know what specific things you believe might be done to improve his or her teaching of this course
  - ENV: Would you like to see any changes to the course?
  - MATH: Please make constructive comments about anything in the instructor’s technique or style that could, in your opinion, be improved
  - SCI: Your professor would like to know what specific things you believe might be done to improve the teaching of this course
  - CEL: The instructor would like to know what specific things you believe might be done to improve the teaching of this course

**NUMBER OF FACULTY QUESTIONS REFLECTED IN THE PROPOSED CORE QUESTIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>AHS</th>
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<th>SCI</th>
<th>CEL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Likert</td>
<td>4/10</td>
<td>4/10</td>
<td>10/18</td>
<td>6/17</td>
<td>8/15</td>
<td>8/15</td>
<td>7/13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open</td>
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<td>1/2</td>
<td>1/3</td>
<td>2/6</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>1/3</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0/2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FACULTY QUESTIONS NOT REFLECTED IN THE PROPOSED CORE QUESTIONS**

AHS (6 Likert and 3 Open):

- Rate this course with respect to: course/lab organization and planning
- Rate this course with respect to: objectivity and fairness in discussions and grading
- Rate this course with respect to: value of readings, assigned work, lab reports
- Rate this course with respect to: availability outside of class
- Rate this course with respect to: overall evaluation of the instructor
- Rate this course with respect to: overall evaluation of the course/lab
- In my opinion the strengths of this course/lab are...
- In my opinion the weaknesses of this course/lab are...
- My view of this course/lab is...

ARTS (6 Likert and 3 Open):

- Rate this course with respect to: course organization and planning
- Rate this course with respect to: objectivity and fairness in discussions and grading
- Rate this course with respect to: value of readings and assigned work
- Rate this course with respect to: availability outside of class
- Rate this course with respect to: overall evaluation of the instructor
- Rate this course with respect to: overall evaluation of the course
- In my opinion the strengths of this course are...
- In my opinion the weaknesses of this course are...
- My view of this course/lab is...
Course Evaluation Project

**ENG (8 Likert and 1 Open):**
- Rate your professor’s presentation of lectures in terms of organization and clarity
- Were students encouraged by the professor to think and reason logically and objectively on their own, about the subject matter?
- What is your overall appraisal of the quality of teaching in this course?
- Rate the difficulty of the concepts covered by this course
- How useful was the textbook (or reading materials) for understanding of the concepts?
- How valuable do you feel tutorials are (or would be) in the instruction of this course?
- What is your overall appraisal of this course?
- How many classes did you attend?
- Your professor would like to know if there is something you believe he or she has done especially well in his or her teaching of this course

**ENV (11 Likert and 2 Open):**
- My overall evaluation of the course is...
- My overall evaluation of the instructor is...
- Assess effectiveness of specific aspects of the course/studio: course outline or syllabus
- Assess effectiveness of specific aspects of the course/studio: organization
- Assess effectiveness of specific aspects of the course/studio: readings and reference material
- Assess effectiveness of specific aspects of the course/studio: assignments
- Assess effectiveness of specific aspects of the course/studio: fairness of grading
- Assess specific aspects of the instructor’s work: knowledge of subject
- Assess specific aspects of the instructor’s work: effectiveness of teaching techniques
- Assess specific aspects of the instructor’s work: professional conduct towards students
- How satisfactory were the facilities (classroom, equipment, etc)?
- Please elaborate on your responses to any of the questions on the other side
- What did you like best about this course?

**MATH (7 Likert and 4 Open):**
- Evaluate the organization and coherence of the lectures
- Evaluate the overall effectiveness of the instructor as a teacher
- What proportion of lectures did you attend in this course?
- Were the printed notes (if any) helpful in learning the course content?
- Was the required textbook (if any) helpful in learning the course content?
- Did the course introduce an appropriate amount of new material?
- Was the instructor available for help outside class?
- Please mention anything that you feel the instructor has done well in this course
- What were the strong points of the course?
- What were the weak points of the course?
- Any other comments, e.g., class size, suitability of room, noise level, etc.
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SCI (7 Likert and 1 open):
• Rate the relative difficulty of this course compared to the others you are now taking
• Rate the helpfulness of the text (or other assigned reading material) relative to those in other courses you are now taking
• Rate the overall quality of teaching in this course
• Describe the availability of your professor outside of class
• How useful are the labs in giving experience in handling and interpreting data?
• How useful are the labs in developing an appreciation of experimental methods?
• The quality of instruction in the laboratory was...
• Your professor would like to know if there are some things you believe were done especially well in the teaching of this course

CEL (5 Likert; 2 Other and 2 open):
• Course materials were presented in an organized manner
• The assignments contributed to my learning
• Feedback on course assignments contributed to my learning
• Technology was used effectively for learning in the course
• Overall, I learned a great deal from this course
• What grade do you expect in this course? [OTHER]
• This course is: required; an elective [OTHER]
• In your opinion the strengths of this course are...
• In your opinion the weaknesses of this course are...

Core Comparison of Draft Questions with Other University Questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Proposed</th>
<th>Toronto</th>
<th>McGill</th>
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<tr>
<td>Likert</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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Notes:
- Waterloo: Draft databank (>120 questions) includes all existing Faculty questions
- Toronto: Optional number depends on Faculty/department (>180 questions in databank)
- McGill: Faculty can select up to 18 questions (at least one question must be open); if fewer than 18 selected, department can select questions (up to the 18 maximum). Instructors can add up to 3 questions. Optional question databank contains >60 items.