

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE  
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD6722S

Date of Senate Approval 4/28/2022

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**FWDC 5:                    Addition of Items to Student Feedback on Instruction (SFI) Form**

**Recommendation:**

The SFI Committee recommends that the following items be added to the Fall 2022 SFI form. For Fall 2022, results will be provided to instructors only. Following a third opportunity for feedback, the items will then be officially added to the SFI form beginning in Spring 2023, with results available to instructors, chairs, and review committees.

Likert Scale Questions

1. My instructor practiced equity and inclusion in the classroom.
2. My instructor modeled sensitivity in considering differing viewpoints.
3. Where possible, my instructor demonstrated awareness of diversity-related issues in the curriculum.
4. Where possible, my instructor was intentional about addressing diverse perspectives in the curriculum.

Qualitative Questions

1. In your experience, how might the instructor have improved their practices with regard to diversity, equity, and inclusion in this class?
2. Please comment on your sense of belonging in this class (e.g., having a voice, being heard, and feeling valued as a member of the classroom).

**Background:**

In our efforts to practice UNCA's [core values](#) and to address the [Fall 2020 student government association resolution](#) advocating for mandatory diversity, equity, and inclusion questions on the Student Feedback on Instruction form, the SFI Review Committee - in consultation with FWDC - developed six questions that were piloted in the spring of 2021. Student responses to these supplemental questions were shared only with instructors, and were not used for any evaluative purposes. The responses to these questions were anonymized and studied by the SFI Review Committee and IREP during the fall of 2021. Our goals were to better understand students' experiences of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the classroom, and to determine which types of

questions give instructors useful information about their classroom policies and practices in these areas.

Faculty were given two formal opportunities for feedback on these supplemental questions. First, in the form of an anonymous survey following the spring 2021 implementation, and again during a virtual feedback session on December 1, 2021. Our committee also presented the data gathered from the spring pilot study during this session.

**Rationale:**

It is the opinion of our committee that encouraging all instructors in all disciplines at all levels to embrace an inclusive and equitable pedagogy is upholding UNCA's core values of diversity, equity, and inclusion. We are excited to see the multifaceted ways that each individual instructor upholds these values, and how they are reflected in faculty records, and in requests for tenure, reappointment, and promotion.

The six items have been carefully constructed to apply to all courses, regardless of disciplinary content, course level, or pedagogical preferences. For instance, the first two Likert scale questions ask students about classroom practices that should be present in all UNC Asheville courses. Responses to the third and fourth questions may be impacted by disciplinary content. We use the phrase "where possible" to acknowledge that it may be challenging to incorporate diverse perspectives in all content areas. However, students may interpret and respond to these items in different ways (specifically, in selecting a "neutral" or "strongly disagree" response when they feel that the course content precludes DEI-related issues). To accommodate this possibility, we have added an "N/A" option to these two questions.