Senate OK's SCEP course evaluation questionnaire

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The Student Committee on Educational Policy secured Senate approval Tuesday of its revamped course evaluation questionnaire, completely redesigned this year in an attempt to increase student response and objectivity, and to use a computer.

The questionnaire will consist of approximately 100 multiple choice-type questions offering what Peter Hollings, SCEP chairman, described as “discrete options” and “ample space for comments,” after each question.

The statistical information derived from computer tabulations of the answers to these questions will be incorporated into and interpreted in individual course essays based on the comments received on the questionnaires. The essays will be similar to those in past reports, but will also include a general assessment of the departments.

The review will cover only courses offered in the fall semester of this academic year.

In an attempt to increase returns and stimulate student response, SCEP will distribute the questionnaires only to a selected sample of students. The sampling will be based on grades and course enrollment, ranging from 25% of large courses to 100% of courses with enrollment under 10.

Over 6500 questionnaires will be printed, with a few extra ones available for students not in the sample group who wish to evaluate their courses anyway.

The Senate approved SCEP’s request to spend approximately $300 for printing of the questionnaires, postage for distribution of questionnaires to off-campus students, return envelopes, and computer answer sheets.

SA President Jerry Hafter instructed the committee to present bids and evaluations for alternate methods of printing and distributing the final report to the student body, including estimates for free distribution to every student, and for limited distribution through sale of individual copies.

The Senate meeting adjourned after consideration of this single item in order that Senators might attend Tuesday evening’s basketball game.