

*presented by
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The College of Sciences Strategies and Timeline for Improving Response Rates of Student Evaluation of Instruction (SEI)

February 2017: Dean Ackleh and his staff discussed how the SEI response rates were unsatisfactorily low in the University and the College and an initiative was needed to improve the response rates in the College. Low response rates raised questions on reliability and validity of using SEI scores for various administrative purposes. The Dean entrusted Dr. Ashok Kumar with the task of studying some of the proven techniques in the literature and to bring the findings to the table at an upcoming department heads meeting.

March 2017: At the department heads meeting, the Dean emphasized how important students' feedback was, and he advised the department heads to take active measures to implement some of the proven strategies for improving SEI response rates. More specifically, the following strategies were discussed: 1) allow for in-class time for students to complete SEI much like the paper-based surveys done in the past, 2) announcements by departments to their students how important their feedback was, 3) active encouragement to students by instructors possibly stating how students' feedback helps improve their instruction as well as course contents, and 4) any other novel mechanism that the departments and their instructors may feel will work the best such as, but not limited to, the involvement of student chapters in promoting student participation. The department heads agreed.

Current Situation: The Dean's office requests and reminds the department heads each regular semester, prior to the start of SEI, about the importance of improved SEI rates and requests their continued participation while applauding their efforts on this front. Also, the Dean's office shares with the department heads the data on SEI response rates that it gets from Assessment Office. The following table shows the SEI response rates demonstrating the College's success in improving the rates.

College of Sciences SEI Response Rates				
Department	Spring 2017 Response Rate	Fall 2017 Response Rate	Spring 2018 Response Rate	Fall 2018 Response Rate
(BIOL) - Biology	37.97	61.07	53.21	<u>75.00</u>
(CHEM) - Chemistry	35.85	49.41	48.16	<u>56.00</u>
(CMPS) - Computer Science	39.05	56.79	55.58	<u>61.00</u>
(GEOS) - School of Geosciences	27.03	39.98	45.00	<u>43.00</u>
(INFX) - Informatics	30.41	41.03	46.00	<u>46.00</u>
(MATH) - Math	33.79	40.96	37.38	<u>51.00</u>
(PHYS) - Physics	35.63	44.73	46.06	<u>37.00</u>

Future:

*How it can
affect
teaching
effectiveness*

