

'Have Your Say' All Student Survey Report Semester 1, 2014

Background

Following the directive from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), in Semester 1, 2014 at least one School per Faculty participated in the online pilot of SECaT evaluations. As part of this pilot, on 15 May 2014 an email communication was sent to all students enrolled in a course in Semester 1, 2014 in order to provide them with information about the online pilot (see Appendix A). Included in the email was a link to a short 'Have Your Say' survey which students could voluntarily complete (see Appendix B). The survey had several purposes:

- Allowing students the opportunity to familiarise themselves with completing evaluations online;
- Obtaining feedback from students about SECaTs and the online process;
- Testing the EvaSys mail server in preparation for full transition to online evaluations.

The purpose of this report is to summarise the findings from the 'Have Your Say' survey.

Results

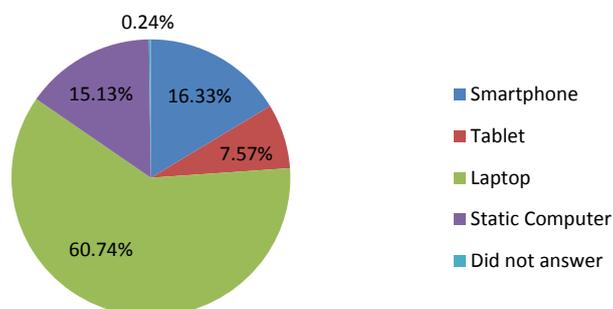
Q1.1 How do you feel about your course evaluations being conducted online?

Students were asked to indicate their preference on a scale from very negative (1) to very positive (5). The average score on this item was $M = 4.29$, $SD = .95$, $n = 5061$, indicating that students feel positive about their evaluations being conducted online.

Q1.2 Which device would you PREFER to use to complete online evaluations?

Almost two-thirds of students who responded indicated that they would prefer to use a laptop to complete online evaluations. Approximately 16% of students who responded preferred smartphones, followed by approximately 15% who preferred to use a static computer. The least preferred device was tablet, with approximately 8% of respondents selecting this device.

Figure 1. Preferred device for completing online evaluations.

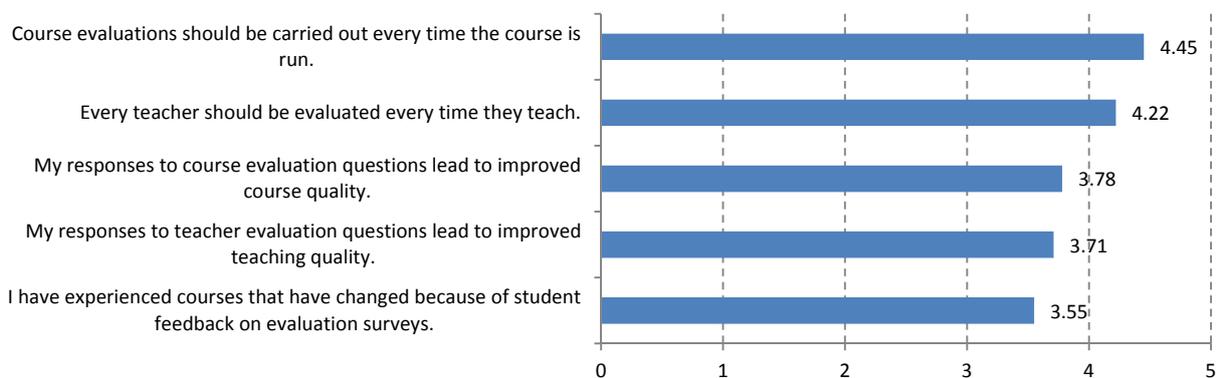


Q1.5-9

Questions 1.5 through to 1.9 asked students about how frequently course and teaching evaluations should be conducted, and whether or not they have experienced changes in either courses or teaching as a result of student feedback. Students were asked to respond on a scale from strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (5).

As Figure 4 shows, students who responded agree that course and teaching evaluations should occur every time a course is offered. Students who responded also agreed that course and teaching evaluations lead to improved course and teaching quality, respectively, although to a lesser extent. Students were less likely to agree that they had experienced courses that have changed as a result of student feedback.

Figure 4. Students' opinions on frequency and outcomes of course and teaching evaluations at UQ.



Q1.10 Do you have any specific feedback or suggestions you would like to make about the Student Evaluation of Course and Teaching (SECaT) at The University of Queensland?

A total of 958 responses to this question were received. These responses were collated into a word cloud (see Figure 5). The following three comments were randomly selected:

“This will allow students to take time to respond and think critically about the course and teaching staff rather than rushing to jot down the first thoughts that come to mind. Also, those who do not want to give feedback don’t have to; this may minimize the degrading and rude comments written by students. Completing an online evaluation gives students a greater sense of responsibility for what they’re writing (typing) as there is seemingly of a ‘middle-man’ to filter response content.”

“Yes, a lot of lecturers/tutors spring the [SECaT] on students with NO prior warning. A lot of lecturers do not give the appropriate amount of time to fill in the evaluation forms. I think the application of the [SECaT] should be more rigorously enforced. Some lecturers do not want you knowing how badly they can deliver services to the enrolled students.”

“Firstly, it would be beneficial for students who made suggestions to improve the learning experience at UQ to be notified when such changes are made. Doing so will demonstrate to suggestion-makers that constructive suggestions are used to improve teaching practices. Also, it is not currently understood if teachers are accountable for suggestions for improvement made by students. There is currently no indication/awareness of how these evaluation results impact/rectifications on future teaching.”

Appendix A: All Student Email

SUBJECT: Introducing 'Have Your Say'

Dear Student,

The University of Queensland (UQ) recently implemented a new system for administering the Student Evaluation of Course and Teacher (SECaT). The new system will make it easier for you to Have Your Say on the courses that you are enrolled in.

In Semester 1, 2014 at least one School per Faculty will be participating in a pilot of the new system, and will therefore use online evaluations. Schools not participating in the pilot will continue to use paper-based evaluations.

If you are enrolled in a course that is involved in the online pilot, you will not receive a paper-based evaluation in class. Instead, you will receive an email (to your student email address) inviting you to participate in an online evaluation. To complete the evaluation, either click on the link contained in the invitation email, or log on to Blackboard and look for the 'Have Your Say' module on the welcome page. You will be able to access evaluations on smart phones, tablets, and desktop computers. For those Schools not participating in the pilot, paper-based evaluations will be administered in class (as usual).

From Semester 2, 2014 all evaluations will be conducted online. In order to familiarise yourself with online evaluations as well as provide feedback on the process, a sample evaluation has been set up and we invite you to Have Your Say. Please click the following link to access the evaluation:

[link]

Alternatively open [Blackboard](#) and select the link from within the 'Have Your Say' module.

For more information on evaluations please visit: uq.edu.au/haveyoursay

[HYS logo]

Appendix B: Survey Questions

1 HAVE YOUR SAY on evaluations

We'd like to hear your thoughts about the Student Evaluation of Course and Teaching (SECaT) and would appreciate your responses to the following questions.

1.1 How do you feel about your course evaluations being conducted online? Very positive | | | | | | Very negative

1.2 Which device would you PREFER to use to complete online evaluations? Smartphone Tablet Laptop Static Computer

1.3 Do you expect to have any problems accessing a device to complete your online evaluation surveys? Yes No

1.4 If Yes, please explain what your access issues might be: (maximum 300 characters)

Strongly agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly disagree

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

1.5 Course evaluations should be carried out every time the course is run. | | | | |

1.6 Every teacher should be evaluated every time they teach. | | | | |

1.7 My responses to course evaluation questions lead to improved course quality. | | | | |

1.8 My responses to teacher evaluation questions lead to improved teaching quality. | | | | |

1.9 I have experienced courses that have changed because of student feedback on evaluation surveys. | | | | |

1.10 Do you have any specific feedback or suggestions you would like to make about the Student Evaluation of Course and Teaching (SECaT) at The University of Queensland? (maximum 500 characters)

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