ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION

BILL NO. 55-66
INTRODUCED BY: LONG
SECONDED BY: VAN EGEREN

A BILL TO: Advocate for a New Student Instructional Rating System

THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACT:

WHEREAS, Many students at Michigan State University are unsure of how the Student Instructional Rating System (SIRS) functions to effect faculty tenure; and

WHEREAS, SIRS feedback currently is used only by faculty, their assistants and their superiors; and

WHEREAS, Students’ Opinion of Courses and Teaching (SOCT) feedback is available for public viewing, but is not well known enough to be utilized; and

WHEREAS, Students view grade output from classes and individual professors on informal sites not managed by Michigan State University; and

WHEREAS, In determining schedules, students often choose courses based on grade output and professor feedback; and

WHEREAS, Differing grading criteria and instruction style sometimes bear a significant influence on students’ resulting grade; and

WHEREAS, Allowing syllabi to be available to students prior to enrollment will allow students to determine which classes may provide a structure that maximizes their success; and

WHEREAS, Students may drop out of their courses in the beginning of the semester due to professors’ failure to provide information on the course via syllabi or other means; and

1 https://soct.msu.edu/Main_Page.Aspx?Page=Select_Subject
2 https://www.ratemyprofessors.com/
3 https://msugrades.com/
WHEREAS, Indiana University and other member institutions of the Association of Big Ten Students (ABTS) that were consulted at the 2019 Winter ABTS Conference have an online platform where students can view feedback on a professor and grade output of all classes; and therefore be it

RESOLVED, The Associated Students of Michigan State University will advocate for a transformation of the Student Instructional Rating System that will include easily accessible feedback of professors, grade output, and previous syllabi that resembles a centralized system similar to that of Indiana University (see photos in Appendix); therefore be it further,

RESOLVED, The Associated Students of Michigan State University will advocate for education about the Student Instructional Rating System at freshman orientation or another appropriate environment; therefore be it further,

RESOLVED, The Associated Students of Michigan State University duly empowers the Office of Academic Affairs to carry out this advocacy in such a way as they deem necessary.

Appendix:

Image 1:

Image 2:
Instructor Emphasized Student Learning

Students who would recommend: 78%

Compared to other classes, this class required: *More time*

Avg hours spent outside class: 4.22 hrs

Comparison Groups
- At ECON-E 202 level: 4.35 hrs
- At LG 200 level: 3.75 hrs

OCQ Response Distributions for ECON-E 202

How much did the instructor motivate you to do your best work?
- 2% (F)
- 5% (D)
- 81% (C)
- 11% (B)
- 1% (A)

How much did the instructor emphasize student learning and development?
- 2% (F)
- 5% (D)
- 31% (C)
- 63% (B)
- 1% (A)