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Editor's Forum

Bill Kohlruss

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Welcome to the Winter edition of the Editor’s Forum for the “Journal of Aviation and Aerospace Education and Research.”

We have only one submission to the Forum this winter but I hope it will motivate many of you to respond on this timely topic. Professor Antonio (Tony) Cortes submits his ideas concerning the use of student course evaluations as an accurate measuring tool of a professor’s performance. There has been a long standing debate over this topic with both sides’ submitting legitimate arguments as to the value or lack thereof with this measuring tool.

Educational leaders have always been tasked with evaluating the teaching performance of their subordinate classroom professors. And as expected there has been much controversy over the tools of which are used to evaluate said performance. Most universities require some sort of “end of course” survey to gather information from the students about the quality of the course. One of the measured parameters is usually how the students felt about the performance of the classroom professor.

The students certainly have the most exposure to the professor to determine the overall quality of instruction, but this determination may be tainted be many smaller factors. Tony Cortes does a masterful job of addressing these in his paper. Tony also presents ideas on how to glean a good evaluation from students without simply making the course real easy or “giving” the students good grades.

I think you will find this paper not only interesting but useful in your own classroom environment. If you have ideas or opinions on this subject, let us know through the FORUM section of the JAAER. I look forward to publishing your thoughts in this venue.

Fly Safe.

Bill Kohlruss
Editor