



Office of the Provost
and Vice-President
(Academic)

1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
L8S 4K1

Phone 905.525.9140
Ext. 24301
Fax 905.546.5213
Email provost@mcmaster.ca

Statement on Use of the 2020 Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) Results

February 24, 2021

The work of the [ad-hoc committee on student evaluation of teaching](#) in November 2019, revealed concerns with the way McMaster uses Student Evaluations of Teaching (SETs) in assessing teaching for merit and tenure and promotion. MUFA and the MacPherson Institute are partnering to develop evidence-based ways to prioritize teaching development, while also identifying ways of assessing student experience in courses.

The pandemic in particular has affected a student's experience of their courses in ways that are beyond the instructors' control. Under the circumstances, 2020 SET data **should not be used** as an assessment tool for faculty performance by chairs and directors. Chairs and directors should not request the SET data from their faculty. Instructors may choose to include their reflection on the students' feedback in their Record of Activities. Evaluation of teaching should include, where appropriate, peer evaluations and awards, class size, course level, service vs. program teaching, supervision of graduate students, and pedagogical innovations. Evaluation may also include information provided by a faculty member's Record of Activity in the section on the impact of COVID19 on teaching practice.

Students' feedback should be used to inform an instructor's reflection on their teaching. Instructors should use this reflection to prepare a plan to develop their teaching practice. In assessing teaching performance, we should include both process (effort, reflection) and outcomes (do they offer and deliver a good course).

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan F. Tighe".

Dr. Susan Tighe
Provost and Vice-President Academic