History students will soon grade teachers

By Lee Giguere

Students in the History Section of the Department of Humanities have launched a teacher evaluation program with the cooperation of the department.

The program, according to Bruce Wheeler, one of the student organizers, is an effort to introduce student evaluations into the processes of faculty hiring and tenure decisions. Wheeler explained that the group hoped to extend the evaluation to the area of general teaching competence. Eventually, he hopes the program would help students in selecting courses.

Associate Professor David Ralston reported that the section has already sent out evaluation forms. Untenured faculty in the section, he explained, are being asked to distribute the forms to their classes. The student group is also attempting to obtain evaluations on last term's courses.

Ralston pointed out that many of the faculty in the section were looking on the evaluations as a way to evaluate teaching. The younger faculty, he stated, were not taking the program antagionistically. He also stated that the evaluations will not be ignored in the section's hiring process. "I will not ignore them in any decision in which I am involved," he stated.

According to Wheeler, the teacher evaluation program originated about one and a half years ago, when Professor William Watson was not granted tenure. At that time, a number of students and junior faculty in the section were looking on the evaluations as a way to evaluate teaching. The younger faculty, he stated, were not taking the program antagionistically. He also stated that the evaluations will not be ignored in the section's hiring process. "I will not ignore them in any decision in which I am involved," he stated.

A week later, MacMaster reported back to the group that he couldn't start the program without approval of the section's faculty. Professor Ralston explained that the delay was due to the time it took to "get things ready." The student group also plans to set up a booth in building ten in an effort to get evaluations of last term's courses.

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