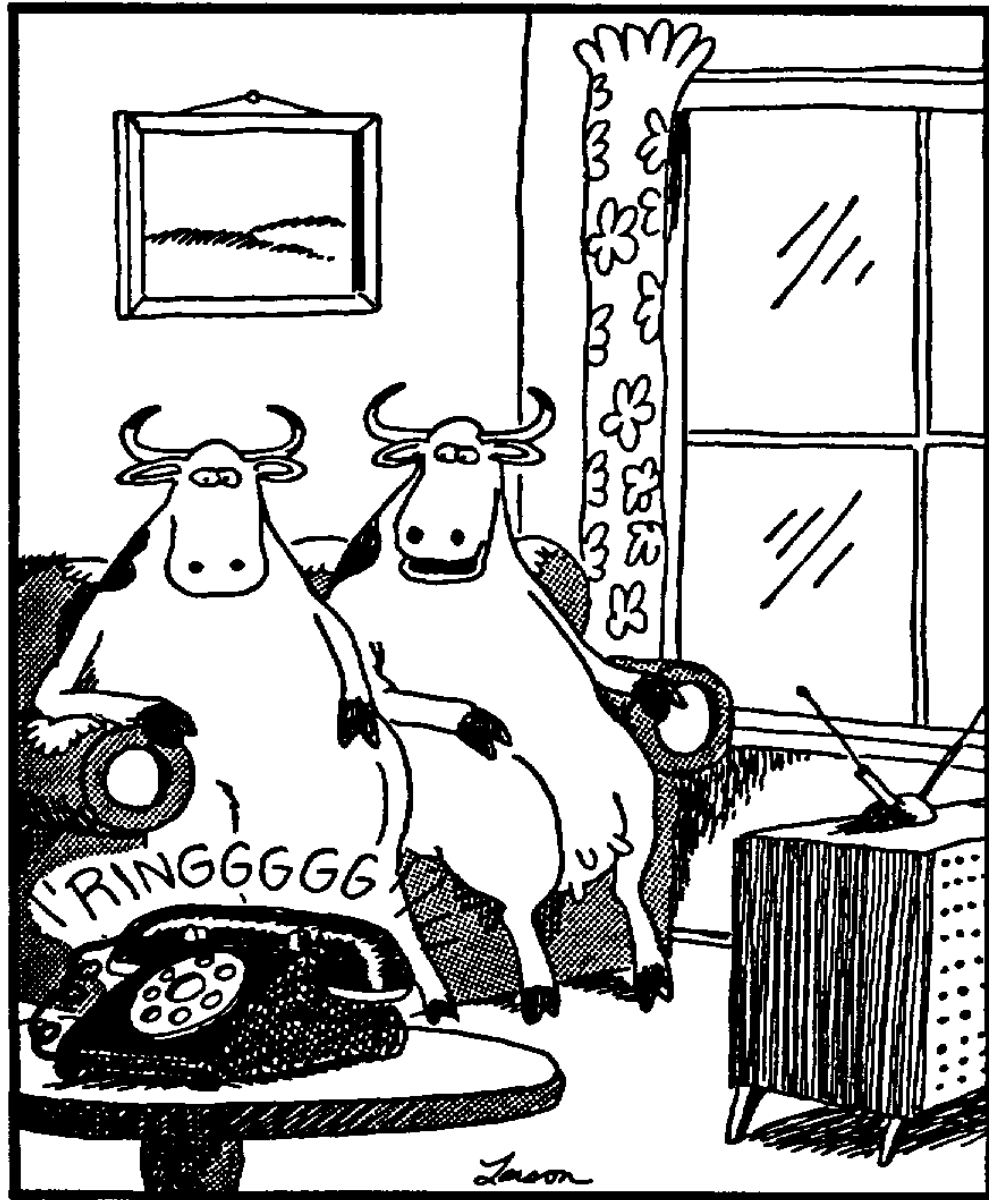


Evaluation Criteria Subcommittee



"Well, there it goes again. ... And we just sit here without opposable thumbs."

Purpose

- The Evaluation Subcommittee of the Curriculum Committee presented a proposal at the June 2005 meeting
- The proposal, among other things, outlined a suggested grade distribution for a “typical” class
- It was elected to convene a small subcommittee to review the proposal, the history of the Harris Report from which it was derived, and develop a new proposal for the Committee

Makeup of the Subcommittee

- Chair: Dr. Davidson
- Course Directors Chair: Dr. Winter
- Clerkship Directors Chair: Dr. Hatch
- Evaluation Subcommittee: Drs. Ritz and Rarey
- Office of Medical Education: Dr. Romrell
- Senior Associate Dean for Education: Dr. Watson

Meetings

The meetings were to address three primary issues:

- Given the development of our competency-based curriculum and evaluation system, shall we develop general guidelines for courses and clerkships with regard to competencies and/or grades, as recommended by the Evaluation Subcommittee document?
- Assuming we decide to develop a document establishing criteria, how shall it be described? As a "guideline", "requirement", "recommendation"? How shall we monitor adherence to the document?
- Given the extremely high level of performance of our students in the first two years on external measures, should we consider at some point making the first year pass/fail, while still providing significant feedback on performance, especially with regard to competencies?

Highlights

- The group was in agreement that consistency among courses with regard to grading is valuable, and that we favor a high level of discrimination if possible
- It was noted that on the clerkships, grading is no longer on an ABC scale, but on an AB+B scale because so few C's are given. A grade of C has become a marker for academic trouble, not a useful grade per se, as is true in most graduate schools.
- It was requested that item analysis of test questions be included in course reports to the evaluation subcommittee, which will be added to the document that will be presented to the Curriculum Committee.

Highlights

- General guidelines were developed for courses and competencies.
- These will be presented by Dr. Ritz
- Monitoring of conformity with these guidelines will be performed by the Evaluation Subcommittee with data provided by the OME.
- The recommendations for competencies are very similar to what is currently happening: around one-third of students receive a top category evaluation for competencies.