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Management of Engineering Statistics for Student Learning and Instructor Survival.

Student evaluations are commonly used as management tools by administration to make inferences about instructor "success". In many colleges and universities, instructor success is equivalent to having high student evaluations. Instructor methods to drive high evaluations are well known, but inextricably at odds with student learning.

On the other hand, student evaluations are also used to infer instructor "failure". Since the assessment by administrators that an instructor has "failed" would be catastrophic, the space for the maximization of student learning is strictly bounded. Thus a criterion for optimization of course management might be the adoption of a strategy for maximizing student learning while avoiding even a temporary assessment of instructor "failure".

This presentation takes a systemic view of the problem and presents several tools and imperatives that have been demonstrated to be practical if an instructor is tempted to pursue the strategy of maximizing student learning while preserving his professional survival at the university. (Received September 04, 2015)