Rethinking course instructor surveys

Maura Borrego
Changing Education: Redesigning the Undergraduate Experience
March 30, 2017
What are some goals of CIS?

• Common metric for evaluating teaching
• Opportunity for students to give feedback
• Information for instructors to improve
• Generate data in minimal time
What are some critiques of CIS?

- Embedded assumptions about good teaching
- Same questions regardless of course type
- “Students don’t know what’s good for them”
- Biases: instructor race/gender, course characteristics, “popularity contest”
What are some alternatives to CIS?

- Direct measures of student learning
- Observation of teaching
- Instructor teaching portfolios
- Follow-on coursework
- Retention, degree attainment
- And more to discuss in this session!
Questions to spark discussion

• Do we need to *survey*?
• Are student surveys the best source of evidence?
• Do CIS need to be done every semester for every course?
• If CIS meets multiple goals, can the goals be decoupled?