

## There's Something about Ted

### Part II

Ted went back to his office. A few minutes later, he emailed his old grad school roommate, who was also an instructor at a big state university, describing the situation. His roommate suggested handing out a survey to the class. Ted thought that this was a good idea. He found one of the standard OU student survey forms lying in his office. It had eight questions, asking the students to rank several factors on a scale of poor, fair, good, very good, excellent. The questions about the instructor asked:

1. Does the instructor have a firm command of the material?
2. Does the instructor communicate the ideas clearly and effectively?
3. Does the instructor give fair quizzes and exams?
4. Does the instructor show concern for his or her students?
5. Rank the instructor overall.

The form had a space at the bottom for the students to fill in general comments.

In class the next day, Ted distributed the surveys to the 18 or so students who had showed up (out of the 30 registered for his course). He collected them, and, as he walked back to his office, flipped through the forms. The numbers looked pretty bad (except on question 1 – the students seemed to have the impression that he knew Calculus!) but what really shocked him were the comments:

I am so frustrated. I am working as hard as I can while holding down a 20 hour a week job. I'm sorry that I'm not doing as well as the HSU students, but I'm really trying hard, and I wish you would help instead of criticize.

Go back to HSU, big shot.

This class is a ripoff. It takes twice as much work as any other class I'm taking, but the curve on the midterm was really unfair. It's just not fair to work so hard and get such a poor grade.

The professor spends the entire class writing formulas on the board, so fast that I can barely keep up with him. I don't know

what he's doing or why. Please slow down and explain a little more!

We are learning lots of facts and formulas, but I don't see how they fit together.

Professor not like questions. slow him down.

The lectures don't add anything to the book. The Professor just writes down all the equations from the book.

This class is so boring. Formulas, formulas, formulas. Who cares?

I don't understand why learning Calculus is required to graduate. Why in the world are we doing this?

The professor is showing us a great deal of extra material and he lectures very clearly. A very interesting class.