Exam Feedback

A discussion prompted by Elana Bryan- Biochemistry Departmental Representative

Query:

"I've been getting quite a lot of feedback from the third years about Biochemistry's decision to not give feedback on the second year summer exams. I had a chat to my DUG about it on Thursday - The faculty's position is that they don't want to teach to the exam and that we had feedback on our first year exams and our January exams why do we need more. I understand that they cannot give feedback on the third year exams because of moderation etc but why not the second year? I don't understand their argument.

Firstly, any feedback is helpful especially before our final exams and in addition, the second year summer exams are the closest in template to the layout of our final year exams. Due to changes in the course my year has never had a consistent exam layout - this means that exam timings, and depth of detail needed for a question changes every exam. This makes it harder for us to do well on exams and is very confusing.

I was hoping you could find out how other subjects (especially chemistry, physics and biology) deal with exam feedback - especially whether they give feedback on all second year exams/ the last set of exams before the final exams or not. If you can't find it out could you let me know who could?"

Discussion points:

- Does your department give students exam feedback on exams?
 - Is this for all exams?
- How extensive is this feedback? (individualised in person, by email, a general "how the class did" update).
- Do you think we need to be given more exam feedback?