



Associated Students, Inc.

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

SR 2015-2016:05

Resolution in Support of Initiating Open End-of-Term Student Course Evaluations

Author: Joshua Ebner, College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences Senator,
Senate President Pro-Tempore

Sponsor: Brandon Whalen, Environmental Design Senator

WHEREAS: The Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) is the elected student representatives of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (Cal Poly Pomona); and

WHEREAS: The ASI serves as an organized legislative body which conveys student ideas and concerns to the university; and

WHEREAS: End-of-Term Course¹ Student Evaluations are an administrative tool implemented to improve the quality of education by assessing faculty members², teaching methods and course content; and

WHEREAS: This assessment gives students a stake in their education by giving them an opportunity to provide direct feedback to their department and university³; and

¹ The word “course” refers to all college courses offered by Cal Poly Pomona where students can earn course credit upon completion of that course. This includes all course formats: lectures, activities, discussions, seminars, laboratories, studios and independent studies.

² Includes all faculty appointments—professor, associate professor, assistant professor, instructor, lecturer, adjunct, clinical, <http://academicpersonnel.unc.edu/faculty-policies-procedures-guidelines/faculty-appointments/>; also refer to <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/faculty>

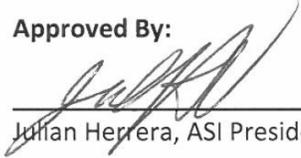
³ Chavez, M.. (2000). Judgment Day: Students' Perspectives on End-of-Course Evaluations. *Die Unterrichtspraxis / Teaching German*, 33(2), 113–124. <http://doi.org/10.2307/3531560>

- WHEREAS: That feedback is essential for improving the quality of education as it has a distinct role in the design and implementation of the goals, content and structure of courses and academic programs⁴; and
- WHEREAS: Currently, the academic departments and the university use the course evaluations as a method of quality assurance in part to make informed decisions to improve academic courses⁵; and
- WHEREAS: As the investors and beneficiaries of their education, students have the right to access the results of student assessments of faculty members and course content to make informed decisions that will affect their academic pursuits and career aspirations; and
- WHEREAS: Implementing these evaluations as public documents will improve current sources of reference, mainly polarized and outdated reviews from third party sites; and
- WHEREAS: A number of other universities in California and throughout the nation have implemented a model whereby course evaluations are made accessible to students for reference⁶; and
- WHEREAS: Several universities, including but not limited to, the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, University of California, Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University, and York University, have made these evaluations available for completion online; therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That the ASI call upon the Cal Poly Pomona Academic Senate to provide students the access to End-of-Term student course evaluations in order to ensure accurate and reliable information regarding course content and effectiveness; and be it further
- RESOVLED: That the End-of-Term evaluations be reviewed and updated so that the questions and format solicits thought-provoking responses that returns vital feedback for improving the quality of education here at Cal Poly Pomona; and be it further

⁴ Diamond, R. M., & Sudweeks, R. R.. (1980). A Comprehensive Approach to Course Evaluation. *Journal of Instructional Development*, 4(1), 28–34. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30220636>

⁵ Remedios, R., & Lieberman, D. A.. (2008). I Liked Your Course Because You Taught Me Well: The Influence of Grades, Workload, Expectations and Goals on Students' Evaluations of Teaching. *British Educational Research Journal*, 34(1), 91–115. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30032815>

- RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate and Cal Poly Pomona make those evaluations available online whereby students can complete and have direct access to the results of the evaluations; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the evaluations remain anonymous to protect the student and to encourage honest feedback; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That a mandatory completion of student evaluations be a requirement to prevent polarized feedback and to promote accurate and honest reviews of the instructors; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That a committee composed of members from Academic Senate and appointed and qualified students be created to screen the student course evaluations; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution be distributed widely, including but not limited to: University President, Dr. Soraya M. Coley and her cabinet; the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Sylvia Alva; the University Academic Senate; the Deans; the Registrar's Office; The Poly Post; the ASI Student Government; and the faculty and students of Cal Poly Pomona.

FOR ASI USE ONLY:	
ASI Senate Approval Date:	March 3, 2016
Verified By:	
 _____ David Lee, ASI Attorney General	<u>3/8/2016</u> _____ Date
Approved By:	
 _____ Julian Herrera, ASI President	<u>3/9/16</u> _____ Date