



**Academic Senate**  
Professor Kenneth Barish  
Division Chair

March 16, 2026

Ken Baerenklau  
Associate Provost

**Re: Proposal for Priority Registration for Timely Completion of Student Evaluations of Teaching**

Dear Ken,

On February 9, 2026, the Academic Senate Executive Council discussed the subject proposal along with review memos from the tasked committees. Herein and attached is the consultative feedback from this review. A number of committees were supportive of the proposal, while others have important comments that warrant attention.

Executive Council members:

- Liked the idea in principle of a pilot as an experiment but also suggested a “bail out” option if, as the pilot progresses, negative impacts are seen.
- Noted that the proposal is more of full implementation over a trial period, rather than the more typical pilots, which involve a small-scale trial.
- Are interested in knowing how smaller sized classes would be handled.
- Had concerns that students would be inadvertently penalized.

The attached letters also provide more comments and questions on the proposed pilot for your attention.

After your review of the above and enclosed feedback, please respond as part of a potentially revised proposal. The revision would be sent to my attention with a courtesy copy to Senate Director Cherysa Cortez (cherysac@ucr.edu) with “New Business” in the subject line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenneth Barish".

Kenneth Barish  
Chair, Academic Senate

Cc: Committee on Educational Policy Chair Ditta  
Registrar Dailey  
Director of Evaluation and Assessment Safie  
Senate Director Cortez  
Senate Analyst Beatty

Enclosures



**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY**

January 15, 2026

To: Ken Barish, Chair  
Riverside Division

From: Annie Ditta, Chair  
Committee on Educational Policy

**Re: Proposed Pilot Program for Priority Registration for Completion of Student Evaluations**

The Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) reviewed and was generally supportive of the proposal for a pilot program for priority registration for the timely completion of student evaluations of teaching at their January 9, 2026 meeting.

The Committee does recommend that the proposal outlines how many evaluations (100%? 75%?) and of what type (i.e., instructor of record? TA?) must be completed to earn priority registration. Additionally, the Committee recommends that the proposal be updated to note how the opportunity for priority registration will be communicated to students and recommends that students be sent ongoing and timely notifications of received priority registration (e.g., upon completion of the evaluations, when receiving their registration ticket for the corresponding quarter, etc.). The Committee also recommends that faculty be notified of the priority registration opportunity so that they can support students to complete the evaluations.

Concern was noted with the proposed incentive that students may quickly complete the evaluations to obtain the benefit without critically completing the evaluations leading to less accurate evaluations.

The Committee is supportive of the proposed one-quarter grace periods for transfer students and for any student who stops out with active priority and later returns to UCR.

January 14, 2026

TO: Ken Barish, Chair  
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

FROM: Iván Aguirre, Interim Chair  
CHASS Executive Committee

RE: Proposal: Priority Registration for Timely Completion of Student Evaluations of Teaching

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The CHASS Executive Committee reviewed the Proposal: Priority Registration for Timely Completion of Student Evaluations of Teaching and enthusiastically supports the decision after discussion on the challenges of obtaining evaluations by students in current times. We look forward to these measures increasing evaluations, as they are an important part of the merit and promotion process and impact faculty on many levels.

The committee notes a few challenges to the current proposal that might be addressed before implementation or as the policy is rolled out and its impact assessed.

- The biggest concern we had was about educating students on what evaluations are, how to write them, and the impact they have, as some students are not familiar with evaluations in general. We wonder if it is possible to have some kind of education around this for first-year and transfer students, in specific courses or workshops that can show students how to write an evaluation, and the impact of their evaluation on faculty merit and promotions. It was discussed how students sometimes numerically evaluate based on factors such as the time of the class that are not exactly within the purview of pedagogy.
- We noted that there may be a population of students, such as those graduating, who might not be incentivized enough. We wonder what could be done to incentivize these students beyond priority registration.
- We noted that promotion of this policy might help the evaluation numbers, as students in a class where faculty does not promote the evaluations would be a disadvantage.

- We discussed how transfer students might be impacted by this policy, and how a potential modification could be working with the Registrar's office to hold a certain number of seats or priority spots for these students.

February 3, 2026

TO: Kenneth N. Barish, Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

FROM: Harry Tom, Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

SUBJECT: [Campus Review] Proposal: Priority Registration for Timely Completion of Student Evaluations of Teaching

Prof. Barish,

The CNAS Faculty Executive Committee has reviewed the proposal to provide priority registration to students that complete student evaluations at the January 20th meeting and had comments to provide to the Senate.

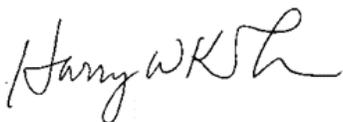
The committee feels that altering the process for priority registration selection, to incorporate preferential treatment to students who complete their course evaluations, is a disservice to the students who are actually in need of priority registration to complete their degrees in a timely manner.

The committee feels that the proposed changes will be costly, will take a lot of time and effort to implement, and will likely produce similar results to previous changes made to this process, where less students complete their evaluation forms.

There was also concern that the proposed process sounds like we're trying to bribe students into completing these evaluations, promising priority enrollment, that is only one day earlier, or less, than the enrollment timeslot they would have had. With this limited "benefit" students will likely feel, the next quarter, that this process is not worth their time to complete.

The committee does not support this proposal and would ask that the campus instead consider investing time and resources into creating a more informative evaluation system, similar to the old process, where students are able to provide feedback to open ended questions, instead of prompts-based questions, which do not help faculty to learn, from students, where improvements can be made to their course and teaching.

Sincerely,



Harry Tom, Ph.D  
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

**COMMITTEE ON FACULTY WELFARE**

January 29, 2026

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair  
Riverside Division Academic Senate

From: Salman Asif, Chair   
Committee on Faculty Welfare

Re: [Campus Review] Proposal: *Priority Registration for Timely Completion of Student Evaluations of Teaching*

The Committee on Faculty Welfare (CFW) reviewed the proposal for *Priority Registration for Timely Completion of Student Evaluations of Teaching*. CFW has the following comments:

- We feel that if this proposal is implemented, transfer students should be given priority between the “returning completers” and “returning non-completers.”
- We would be interested in seeing the data from this trial after the trial period. In particular, we would be interested in seeing response rates from graduating seniors who are not affected by this incentive.
- It is not clear if this proposal is good for students, since one of the goals of priority registration is to ensure students who need certain courses to graduate are able to enroll in these courses.

TO: Ken Barish, Chair  
Riverside Division

FR: Kurt Schwabe, Chair   
Executive Committee, School of Public Policy

RE: **[Comments] Priority registration for timely completion of student evaluations of teaching**

Date: February 1, 2026

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The Executive Committee of the School of Public Policy has reviewed the *Proposal for Priority Registration for Timely Completion of Student Evaluations of Teaching*. We think this is a reasonable approach to pilot with continual monitoring to identify its usefulness as well as any potential unintended consequences. We appreciate the concerns re transfer students and other students who may have been away for a period of time and support the suggestion for a “free” quarter of priority registration.

1/28/2026

**To:** Kenneth Barish, Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate  
and Cherysa Cortez, Executive Director of the UCR Academic Senate

**From:** Kinnari Atit, Ph.D., Faculty Chair of the School of Education Executive Committee

**Subject:** SOE FEC's Feedback on Proposal: *Priority Registration for Timely Completion of Student Evaluations of Teaching*

The SOE Executive Committee reviewed the Proposal for *Priority Registration for Timely Completion of Student Evaluations of Teaching*. Comments/feedback were solicited from committee members via email.

To promote equity, the SOE FEC recommends that newly matriculated transfer students, as well as students who stop out and later return to UCR with active priority, be granted a one-quarter grace period for this incentive, given that they did not previously have access to the opportunity to earn priority.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Sincerely,



Kinnari Atit  
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee  
Associate Professor  
School of Education  
University of California, Riverside  
Email: [kinnari.atit@ucr.edu](mailto:kinnari.atit@ucr.edu)



January 22, 2026

TO: Ken Barish, PhD, Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

FROM: Adam Godzik, Ph.D., Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, UCR School of Medicine

SUBJECT: **[Campus Review] Proposal: *Priority Registration for Timely Completion of Student Evaluations of Teaching***

Dear Ken,

The SOM Faculty Executive Committee has reviewed the *Proposal: Priority Registration for Timely Completion of Student Evaluations of Teaching*.

The committee discussed a university policy on student evaluations, noting that while the medical school requires 100% compliance due to grade dependencies, other master's programs fall under the university's system. The FEC supports the proposal encouraging timely completion of Student Evaluation of Teaching and voted to approve the policy document.

Yours sincerely,

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Adam Godzik, Ph.D.  
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee School of Medicine

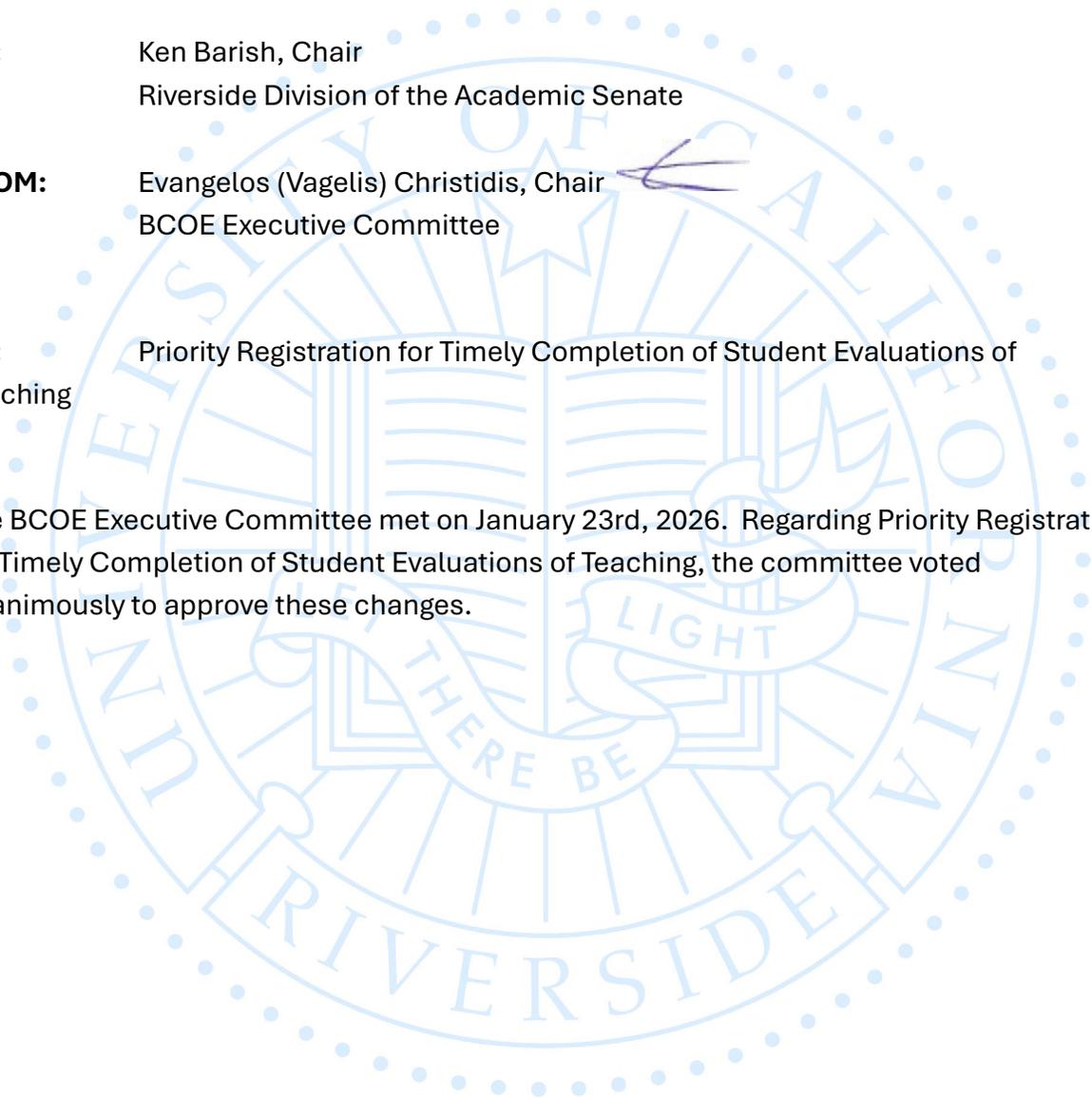
January 23, 2026

**TO:** Ken Barish, Chair  
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

**FROM:** Evangelos (Vagelis) Christidis, Chair  
BCOE Executive Committee

**RE:** Priority Registration for Timely Completion of Student Evaluations of Teaching

The BCOE Executive Committee met on January 23rd, 2026. Regarding Priority Registration for Timely Completion of Student Evaluations of Teaching, the committee voted unanimously to approve these changes.



December 22, 2025

To: Annie Ditta, Professor and Chair of the Committee on Educational Policy

From: Ken Baerenklau, Associate Provost

Re: Priority registration for timely completion of student evaluations of teaching

Dear Annie,

Response rates to UCR's student evaluations of teaching (SETs) have been low for many years. This reduces the usefulness of student feedback both for helping to improve instruction and as a measure of teaching effectiveness in the merit and promotion process. Previously, UCR offered students an incentive for completing their evaluations: early access to their course grades. This appeared to work well, but when we adopted Banner as our student information system, we lost the ability to do this without undertaking a costly IT project.

Recently we discussed a possible alternative: priority registration. Below is how this might work.

- The Office of Evaluation and Assessment will inform students of the incentive as part of the normal messaging to students about completing their SETs.
- The incentive would be: if a student completes all their assigned SETs on time (typically by the Friday before finals week), they will earn priority registration among students with similar class standing (determined by units earned) during the next registration window.
  - o This incentive only creates within-class priority. A student may not leap-frog other students with higher class standing or with other registration priority. For example, a continuing student with junior standing would receive priority among all juniors who do not have some other registration priority such as for honors, athletics, etc.
  - o Due to the timing of course registration periods relative to finals weeks, the "next registration window" would be: spring quarter for fall quarter SETs, fall quarter for winter quarter SETs, and winter quarter for spring quarter SETs. This means that the incentive will be irrelevant for any student planning to graduate the following term.
  - o The incentive would not affect registration for incoming students. These students will continue to register last, after all continuing students, due to the timing of their enrollment and registration.

Note that the incentive creates an inequity for recently matriculated transfer students. In their first quarter, when eligible to register for their second quarter, they are grouped with students

(typically continuing juniors) who previously had the chance to earn priority whereas they did not. I would appreciate CEP's guidance on whether these students should receive a one-quarter grace period. Note that, even if they do not, then their overall registration priority during their first quarter remains much higher than it was the previous term as incoming students (incoming transfers register last, after incoming frosh).

The incentive does not create a similar inequity for recently matriculated frosh because no first-quarter frosh previously had the chance to earn priority. However, it potentially helps students who completed their first year without advancing to sophomore status because these students did have the chance to earn priority.

For students who are enrolled but are not assigned any SETs that would be captured by our process (e.g., study abroad, or students fully enrolled in research units), we would award priority because these students would not have any incomplete SETs from such a term. I would appreciate CEP's guidance on whether we should similarly award a one-quarter grace period for any student who stops out with active priority and later returns to UCR.

We would pilot this incentive for two academic years (six quarters, not including summer) pending approval by CEP. The first pilot term could be as early as Winter 2026. After the third term (Fall 2026), the Office of Evaluation and Assessment will evaluate our SET response rates, analyze which students are receiving registration priority, and test for differences in the academic progress of these students versus those not receiving priority. We will share this information with CEP for use in determining whether to continue this incentive after the pilot ends.