

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

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.