IN SUPPORT OF ADMINISTERING STUDENT EVALUATIONS OF FACULTY ONLINE
(Approved by Faculty Senate, March 9, 2017)

WHEREAS, the Campus Sustainability Plan calls for reduced paper usage across campus; and

WHEREAS, the cost of processing paper evaluation forms includes not only the paper involved in printing, but also the cost of staff time in printing and delivering forms, the cost of temporary staff hired to process the forms, and the cost of maintenance and upkeep on the scanning and printing equipment involved; and

WHEREAS, the Campus Accessibility Statement and the California State University Executive Order 926 encourages the use of technologies to provide equal access to programs, services, and activities; and

WHEREAS, online student evaluations of faculty allow students a wider window of time in which to respond; and

WHEREAS, major recent advances in technology now permit a smooth online process for student evaluations of faculty; and

WHEREAS, updates to the Collective Bargaining Agreement now allow "written or electronic student questionnaire evaluations" (Article 15.15); and

WHEREAS, a task force appointed by the Faculty President has done a pilot study and found that when students are given time in class to complete online evaluations, response rates are better than when no class time is given and are comparable to or better than response rates for paper evaluations[1]; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the CSUN Faculty Senate recommend that beginning in Fall 2017, all student evaluations of faculty be conducted online; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the CSUN Faculty Senate recommend that faculty teaching classes with face-to-face meetings give time in class for students to complete online student evaluations of faculty[2].

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[1] Of the 54 classes in the Spring 2016 online student evaluations of faculty pilot, date stamps on student responses indicate that 21 sections received time in class to complete the evaluation and 33 did not receive class time. Of the former group, the average response rate was 82% (median: 83%; range: 63 – 100%). Of the latter, the average response rate was 57% (median: 57%; range: 14 – 100%). As a comparison, the average response rate for paper surveys in the same semester was 79% (median: 77%; range: 35 – 100%). Further, faculty responses to a follow-up survey indicated that those faculty in the pilot who gave time in class were more satisfied with the quality of students' open-ended responses on the evaluation.

[2] Note that faculty in the pilot study received a best practices document to encourage them to give time in class, along with other best practices.