



**California State University, Sacramento**  
**Office of Academic Affairs**

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**Student Evaluations Memorandum to Reviewers**

**Impact on Evaluations due to COVID 19 – Spring 2020**

The pandemic of COVID-19 in Spring 2020 dramatically affected the CSU system and nation as a whole; the impact on faculty at Sacramento State cannot be ignored. The suspension of in-person instruction, shelter-in-place orders that limited access to offices, and other related issues represented a profound disruption for faculty, staff, and students. Indeed, major changes to instructional strategies were made, not by individual choice, but rather as a best effort to respond to unprecedented circumstances. Based upon the above circumstances, a Memorandum of Understanding was developed between Sacramento State and the California Faculty Association, Capitol Chapter to specifically address student evaluations of teaching conducted during the Spring 2020 semester.

Furthermore, the suspension of in-person classes and the rapid move to alternative modalities of instruction means that student perceptions of teaching effectiveness may be negatively impacted. Additionally, the efforts of faculty to adjust immediately to instructional strategy options may be the difference between students finishing the year, graduating, or not. In light of these circumstances, the University and CFA agree that no personnel decision should be made solely on course evaluations from the Spring 2020 term.

A copy of this memorandum is to be permanently appended to the front of each course evaluation performed in Spring 2020. It is the responsibility of the Dean and Department Chairs to ensure that this occurs.

Sincerely,



William DeGraffenreid  
Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs (interim)



6/1/2020  
Margarita Berta-Ávila  
President  
California Faculty Association, Capitol Chapter