Resolution #15-04

ASI BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ SUPPORT OF OPEN COURSE EVALUATIONS

WHEREAS: The ASI Board of Directors serves as the official voice of students at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and

WHEREAS: Course evaluations assess instructors and are used to produce feedback which can be used to improve the quality of education, and

WHEREAS: Institutions nationwide, including many UC’s, have successfully implemented an open course evaluation system. Open course evaluations allow students and other members of the university access to the results of course evaluations, and

WHEREAS: Access to open course evaluations offer university community members academic guidance and critical information on course selection, and

WHEREAS: The anonymous nature of course evaluations allow students to remain protected if course evaluations are open, and

WHEREAS: The implementation of an open course evaluation system is an improvement over the status quo, in which third-party sites (e.g. Polyratings) present polarized and outdated reviews from unverified sources, and

WHEREAS: Students, in paying for courses, have the right to know whether past students have benefited from a certain professor, and

WHEREAS: The lack of transparency regarding both the results and the accountability of faculty evaluations does not promote confidence in their value causing many students to not spend the necessary time on evaluations, and

WHEREAS: According to a study done at Western Washington University in 2004, “If all else is equal, a student is twice as likely to choose an instructor with “excellent” ratings over an instructor with “good” ratings; however, students are willing to select a “poor” instructor if they believe they will learn a lot from the class1, and

WHEREAS: According to a study published in the Journal of Educational Psychology, “Students will choose a highly rated course over less highly rated courses even if the workload is greater for that course than the others 2, and

WHEREAS: Past court rulings involving the University of Wisconsin and the University of Idaho have found that students have the right to view results of course evaluations, 3 and

WHEREAS: University of California, Berkeley provides access to student evaluations and 44% of students indicated that having access to evaluation data would be necessary to motivate them to complete course evaluations⁴, and

WHEREAS: Yale University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Oregon, UC Berkeley, University of Idaho, University of Wisconsin, Columbia University, Northwestern University, Brown University, Harvard University, Cornell University, Dartmouth University, University of Pennsylvania, New York University, and Princeton University have all successfully implemented open course evaluations, and

THEREFORE

BE IT

RESOLVED: That the ASI Board of Directors calls upon the Academic Senate, Academic Affairs, and the Office of the Provost to create and charge an Open Course Evaluation Implementation Committee with the planning, development, and implementation of an open course evaluation system,

FURTHER

BE IT

RESOLVED: That the Open Course Evaluation Implementation Committee should present an Open Course Evaluation Implementation Report to the ASI Board of Directors, Academic Senate, and the Provost before the close of Spring 2016 outlining an implementation process,

FURTHER

BE IT

RESOLVED: That, as the official voice of Cal Poly students, ASI Board of Directors highly recommends that the University adopt an open course evaluation system,

FURTHER

BE IT

RESOLVED: That extensive efforts are made to include all stakeholders, including students, in the ongoing discussion regarding open course evaluations,

FURTHERMORE

BE IT

RESOLVED: That this resolution be sent to Academic Senate, Academic Affairs, and Provost Kathleen Enz Finken.

CERTIFIED as the true and correct copy, in witness thereof, I have set my hand and Seal of the San Luis Obispo Cal Poly Associated Students, Inc. this ___ day of __, 2015.

Attest: ________________________________
ASI Secretary

ADOPTED at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors at San Luis Obispo Cal Poly Associated Students, Inc. this this ___ day of __, 2015.

Signed: ________________________________
ASI Chair of the Board

Signed: ________________________________
ASI President

Sponsored by: Vittorio Monteverdi, ASI Board of Directors, College of Engineering