Resolution to Set the Deadline for Collecting Course-Instructor Evaluations at the End of Reading Day for Each Semester

WHEREAS, student evaluations of teaching are seriously considered in all promotion and tenure decisions and thus affect all the Faculty at the College of Charleston, and, therefore, a consistent deadline for collecting student evaluations each semester should be set in consultation with the Faculty Senate;

WHEREAS, online student evaluations as a self-selecting sample are a non-probability sample (i.e., no credible conclusions can be made with any confidence/probability from such samples), and bias towards lower extremes is known to exist in such samples, in order to reduce this bias the student evaluations deadline should be set BEFORE the start of final exams each semester;

WHEREAS, students with final exams early in the final exam week may be able to see their final grade on OAKS in some classes even before the end of final exam week (and thus before they potentially write their student evaluations), and this potentially adds further to the lower-extremes bias and also potentially affects unfairly the faculty trying to follow best practices in submitting their grade-work on OAKS as early as possible;

THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED that we, the Faculty Senate of the College of Charleston, request that the deadline for collecting student evaluations of teaching be set no later than the end of Reading Day for each semester.