

# 1 Resolution on Continuity and Compassion Amid Disruption by 2 COVID-19: Mode of Instruction and Use of Student Ratings of 3 Teaching in Spring 2020

4 WHEREAS on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in  
5 California as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic. On March 11, the World Health Organization  
6 declared COVID-19 to be a pandemic; and

7 WHEREAS on March 11, 2020, the University announced plans to put strong social distancing  
8 measures into place by discontinuing face-to-face instruction and replace it with 'virtual  
9 instruction' starting on April 6. These plans allowed for a slow transition to voluntary  
10 virtualization of teaching followed by Spring Break and then an additional week of canceled  
11 classes to allow faculty a week to transition to mandatory virtual instruction; and

12 WHEREAS On March 12, the Ventura County Public Health Officer declared COVID-19 to be a  
13 local health emergency. On March 13, the pandemic led President Trump to declare a national  
14 state of emergency.<sup>1</sup> On March 15, the governor of California directed that populations  
15 especially vulnerable to COVID-19 self-isolate at home. At the same time, to accelerate social  
16 distancing in California, primary and secondary schools were closing their campuses and  
17 moving instruction online; and

18 WHEREAS on March 15, the University announced an acceleration of social distancing plans,  
19 canceling classes through Spring Break, and giving faculty the week after Spring Break to retool  
20 for virtualization, starting virtualized instruction one week early on March 30. The center for  
21 Teaching and Learning Innovations mobilized to assist instructional faculty in this transition;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS on March 17, the Ventura County Public Health Officer issued the first shelter in  
24 place<sup>2</sup> order for the county which ordered non-essential businesses to close and all citizens to  
25 self-isolate at home. On March 31, this county order was updated<sup>3</sup> to align with a March 19  
26 state-wide stay at home order from the governor<sup>4</sup>. On March 22, President Trump

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27 <sup>1</sup> Text of the White House declaration of nation emergency  
28 <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/letter-president-donald-j-trump-emergency-determi>  
29 [nation-stafford-act/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/letter-president-donald-j-trump-emergency-determi)

30 <sup>2</sup> Text of the Ventura County Stay Safe Stay Home order can be found online at  
31 [https://vcportal.ventura.org/CEO/VCNC/2020-03-17\\_Ventura\\_County\\_Public\\_Health\\_Order.pdf](https://vcportal.ventura.org/CEO/VCNC/2020-03-17_Ventura_County_Public_Health_Order.pdf).

32 <sup>3</sup> Text of the Ventura County Stay At Home order  
33 <https://s30623.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/StayWellAtHomeOrder.pdf>

34 <sup>4</sup> Text of the California state-wise stay at home  
35 order <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.19.20-attested-EO-N-33-20-COVID-19-HEALTH-ORDER.pdf>  
36

37 declared the pandemic to be a major disaster for the state of California. On March 30, the  
38 county's Stay Well Stay Home order was extended<sup>5</sup>; and

39 WHEREAS the US Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education issued  
40 guidance for interruptions of study related to Coronavirus (COVID-19) on March 5 (and revised  
41 on March 20) that allows courses to convert to modalities that support 'distance education'  
42 without going through normal approval processes; and

43 WHEREAS this timeline shows the rapid development of the COVID-19 pandemic, the rapid  
44 University response to the public health emergency, and the immense pressure put on all  
45 members of the University community, it puts unique and poorly understood pressures on the  
46 institution's instructional mission.

47 WHEREAS feedback from students on courses is an important source of feedback for  
48 instructional faculty.

49 BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that student ratings of teaching should be distributed for  
50 Spring 2020; and

51 BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that faculty be permitted to choose to permanently exclude Spring  
52 2020 student ratings of teaching (SRT) from their Personnel Action Files (PAF); and

53 BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that in order to ensure continuity of quality instruction, the  
54 Academic Senate suspends Senate Policy 14-14<sup>6</sup> and Senate Policy 12-08<sup>7</sup> to allow faculty  
55 the flexibility to support their students through alternative modes of instruction for the  
56 duration of the Spring 2020 and Summer 2020 terms.

57 If any resolution or part of a resolution in this document conflicts with or contradicts  
58 guidance on other University policies or procedures, these resolutions shall prevail without  
59 invalidating any other portion of the University policy or procedure. If any part of a  
60 resolution statement in this document conflicts with existing CSU policy, executive order, or  
61 coded memoranda, or if any resolution in this document conflicts with local, state, or  
62 federal statute, or the Collective Bargaining Agreement, that part of a resolution statement  
63 will be declared invalid without harming any other resolution statement in this document.

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64 <sup>5</sup> Text of the revised Ventura County Stay Home Stay Well order  
65 [https://vcportal.ventura.org/covid19/docs/March\\_31\\_2020\\_Order.pdf](https://vcportal.ventura.org/covid19/docs/March_31_2020_Order.pdf)

66 <sup>6</sup> Policy for On-Line Teaching and Learning, text can be found at  
67 <https://senate.csuci.edu/policies/2014-2015/sp-14-14-policy-for-online-teaching-and-learning-final.pdf>

68 <sup>7</sup> Policy for Listing of Online Course Offerings, text can be found at  
69 <https://senate.csuci.edu/policies/2012-2013/senate-policy-12-08.pdf>