16 May 2012

Report Re: "Transition to Online Student Evaluations"

"Transition to Online Student Evaluations"

Submitted by the Senate Committee on Computing and Technology to the Hunter College Senate, May 16, 2012

Approved by the Senate Computing and Technology Committee on March 20, 2012:
Approved by the Senate Committee on Evaluation of Teaching on April 3, 2012:
Approved by the Senate Administrative Committee on May 2, 2012

WHEREAS, the financial costs of materials and administrative support necessary for conducting paper student evaluations are substantial (about $40, 000); and

WHEREAS, nuisance costs and lost class time are significant; and

WHEREAS, the results of online evaluations are immediate and generated without several months of processing by departments; and

WHEREAS, increasing numbers of schools—including many within CUNY—are making the transition from paper-based to online evaluations; and

WHEREAS, the existing evaluation form can be seamlessly transferred to the Hunter server at minimal cost, obviating the need to pay expensive external vendors; and

WHEREAS, portions of the savings to the school can be earmarked for raffles and prizes to increase student awareness and participation in the new format; and

WHEREAS, an aggressive campaign to maintain or improve student response rates will be implemented, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that student evaluations at Hunter College be conducted online; and

RESOLVED, that Fall Semester 2012 a pilot program be conducted to test student response rates within the new format; and

RESOLVED, that the online format be made permanent provided the following benchmarks are met: 50% response rate for classes of 100 or more; 70% response rate for classes of fewer than 100.