

From: [Dean of the Graduate Division](#)
To: [Dean of the Graduate Division](#)
Subject: Recommendations on Use of Graduate Student Instructional Assistant Teaching Evaluations
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 2:57:03 PM

June 3, 2020

TO: DIVISIONAL DEANS
DEPARTMENT AND GROUP CHAIRS
PROGRAM & DEPARTMENT MSOs
GRADUATE ADVISORS
GRADUATE COORDINATORS
COLLEGE WRITING PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Dear Colleagues,

As we know, this quarter has presented many challenges for our students in the classroom, and for those of us who are teaching. Although it remains unclear what impact this quarter's circumstances will have on students' assessments of teaching, it is reasonable to assume that this quarter's teaching evaluations might not be fully representative of instructors' typical teaching quality. This is why faculty members have been given the option to not include Spring 2020 teaching evaluations in any impending review of their files.

In a similar vein, we imagine this same challenge may extend to our graduate student instructional assistants.

As such, we write to you today to recommend that you not base any graduate student instructional assistant hiring or reappointment decisions solely on the teaching evaluations stemming from the Spring 2020 quarter. We do not mean to imply that these teaching evaluations should be ignored—certainly, they will contain useful information. Rather, we simply suggest you consider the broader circumstances of the quarter when interpreting these teaching evaluations.

As always, the Teaching & Learning Commons (<https://commons.ucsd.edu/covid-19/ias.html>) is available to assist all instructors, including our graduate student instructional assistants. Our hope is that if you find any of your instructional assistants need guidance and support, you help connect them to these resources.

Sincerely,

James Antony
Dean, The Graduate Division

John Moore
Dean, Undergraduate Education

Lynn Russell
Chair, Graduate Council

