

Santa Monica College

Distance Education Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: November 17, 2020 at 12:45 p.m.

Location: [Zoom](#)

Chairs: Laura Manson (Chair), Tammara Whitaker (Vice-Chair)

Members: Fariba Bolandhemat, Vanessa Bonilla, Maral Hyeler, Regina Ip, Dana Del George, Sandra Hutchinson, Christine Miller, Odemaris Valdivia, Ashley Eutsey, Joelle Adams

Interested Parties: Ellen Cutler, Steven Sedky, Sheila Cordova, Aaron French, Sue Lee

Guests: Alexandra Tower, Andria Denmon, Collin Ellis, Chris Grant, Sue Lue,

I. Call to Order

L. Manson called the meeting to order at 12:46 p.m.

II. Public Comments

C. Grant expressed that the current resolution causes confusion and should explicitly state that it does not apply to DE emergency online courses. He shared suggested language with committee members that would provide clarity and avoid marginalizing faculty who may use cameras in their courses. Additional members from the Life Sciences department agreed with C. Grant's comments regarding the resolution. A. Tower suggested the creation of a separate document that addresses DE emergency only courses to define synchronous and asynchronous courses at SMC. There were also concerns from the Life Sciences department that students may misinterpret the resolution and seek to challenge faculty that deemed it necessary to use cameras in their courses due to the nature of the content.

Various committee members asked clarifying questions to understand the department's position regarding the resolution.

III. Approval of Minutes

None

IV. Action & Discussion Items

a. [Synchronous Teaching: Camera Use Resolution DRAFT](#) Discussion with Equity and PD Committee Members

1. L. Manson reported the resolution was passed by the Academic Senate Executive Committee and will be forwarded to the Academic Senate. D. Del George expressed the intent of the resolution was to address equity concerns regarding camera use and the committee understood there are certain disciplines, such as Life Sciences, that would require camera use. J. Adams also explained that the position of the committee is that camera use is the exception, but not the rule. F. Bolandhemat and O. Valdivia shared with

the committee and guests that if camera use is notated in the schedule in advance, students would not be able to contest the requirement.

In an attempt to make the intention of the resolution clearer, the committee revised specific language in the document. L. Manson will follow-up with the Academic Senate President to confirm if the revised document may be forwarded to Academic Senate.

V. Future Agenda Items

- a. Camera Use in Synchronous Online Courses Resolution Update
- b. Distance Education Committee Scope and Function Review Update
- c. Developing an SMC Synchronous Best Practice Document

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Next scheduled meeting: The next meeting of the Distance Education committee will be December 1, 2020 from 12:45 - 2:00 p.m. via Zoom

