

SMC Academic Senate
Distance Education Modalities Resolution
Distance Education Committee

Passed 8 June 2021

Whereas SMC's top strategic objective for 2017-2022 is to "close the gaps in educational outcomes among student groups" by, among other actions, "[maintaining] an innovative, responsive, and inclusive academic environment, curricular programs, learning strategies, and services";

Whereas the strict definition of "distance education" as asynchronous no longer seems fit for purpose given the innovations, adaptations, and opportunities developed while teaching and learning remotely during the pandemic;

Whereas student survey results indicate that 48% of students prefer a mix of synchronous and asynchronous online classes, with 14% preferring synchronous online classes as we move into a post-COVID-19 context;

Whereas several departments have expressed that for online classes, synchronous delivery is pedagogically critical and supports student success;

Whereas faculty survey results indicate that 78.5% of faculty prefer a mix of on-ground and online working conditions; and

Whereas the Distance Education Committee will provide the SMC community with information on [best practices for synchronous online teaching](#);

Be it resolved that Santa Monica College should broaden our definition and practice of distance education.