

Academic Senate Resolution

Title: ASR-0608-21-1 Distance Education Modalities
Author/Committee: Joelle Adams/Distance Education
1st Read/Vote: 06-01-21/Yea: 51, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
2nd Read/Vote: 06-08-21/Yea: 46, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
Approval Date: 06-08-21/Yea: 46, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0

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.