

Academic Senate Resolution

Title: ASR-12-20 Synchronous Camera Use
Author/Committee: Laura Manson/Distance Education
1st Read/Vote: 11-10-20/ Yea: 35, Nay: 4, Abstain: 3
2nd Read/Vote: 12-8-20/Yea: 44, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
Approval Date: 12-8-20/Yea: 44, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0

Whereas synchronous instruction is used by some instructors to meet discipline-specific requirements, asynchronous instruction is the recommended mode of online course delivery because it provides an alternate learning mode for students who are working toward realizing their academic goals while allowing them to maintain a flexible schedule and

Whereas the Distance Education Senate Committee and the Distance Education division will provide a list of participation activities that faculty can use during a live online class session that don't require students to have their video on during the entire class; and

Whereas mandating that students be required to turn on recording of their own image may violate a student's privacy under legislation including, but not limited to FERPA regulations, students may be uncomfortable displaying their personal space to the class and instructor and students may not want their image captured or recorded due to physical and psychological safety concerns for themselves or families; and

Whereas students might not have reliable Internet access in a private space, devices with video-sharing technology within their household, sufficient bandwidth, and other technological requirements; and

Whereas Santa Monica College's stated mission is to "serve diverse individuals ... seeking high-quality, affordable undergraduate education" and SMC's top strategic objective for 2017-2022 is to "close the gaps in educational outcomes among student groups," specifically Black and Latinx students;

Whereas "Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities will be provided on a case-by-case basis."

Be it resolved that unless camera use is essential for 1. achieving and assessing course objectives and outcomes, 2. monitoring student health and safety concerns, and/ or 3. observing professional licensure requirements (e.g. performing arts, science labs, health sciences, communications, cosmetology and kinesiology/ physical education) and students have been notified before enrollment of the camera use policy, instructors should allow students to choose when to turn their cameras on during live online synchronous classes.