

Academic Senate Resolution

Title: Emergency Distance Education Modality

Approval Date: ??????

Whereas, the declaration of an emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic necessitated the immediate transition from an on-ground instructional modality to a remote instructional modality for all courses offered by the college;

Whereas, emergency-only distance education approval by the SMC Curriculum Committee authorizes those courses to be offered remotely only during a declared emergency;

Whereas, the Academic Senate officially recognized synchronous instruction as a fully-approved distance education modality on June 8 2021 and this change in allowed distance education modalities will result in departments re-examining whether courses approved for emergency-only distance education will be submitted for full distance education approval;

Whereas, department chairs are already engaged in scheduling for Spring 2022 and there is insufficient time for departments to discuss, investigate, propose, and seek approval for new fully online distance education before Spring 2022 schedules are set;

Whereas, the potential of an abrupt and unplanned end to emergency-only distance education approvals will cause serious damage to student educational progress and to the ability of departments to meet student need in this on-going pandemic;

Resolved, the Academic Senate recommends that in the Fall 2021 semester each discipline/department discuss and investigate the impact of the new distance education guidelines allowing for synchronous instruction, and decide whether they intend to convert any emergency-only approved distance education courses to fully approved.¹

¹ This will allow departments to submit rigorously developed applications for full distance education approval to the Curriculum Committee before *[insert date needed by Curriculum]* in order to be approved by the full Senate before its last meeting of Spring 2022. This will also allow departmental chairs to begin scheduling for Fall 2022 with full knowledge of the available modalities.

~~Resolved, the Academic Senate recommends that if the COVID-19 emergency is declared over, all emergency-only distance education authorizations shall continue through Summer 2022 or any already-scheduled semester or intersession thereafter.²~~

Resolved, the Academic Senate recommends that all emergency-only distance education authorizations shall continue through Summer 2022. After Summer 2022, any emergency-only distance education authorization will take effect only in the event of an appropriate emergency declaration by the District.

² The potential disruption to student educational progress due to an abrupt withdrawal of approval is enormous given that SMC schedules so far in advance of the first day of classes. The timeline provided in the first resolution will allow departments to prepare for future withdrawals of emergency-only approval once the emergency is declared over by determining which courses are appropriate for full distance education approval. This resolution also educates all parties that the declaration that the COVID-19 emergency is “over” has real consequences related to planning, curriculum, and educational advancement.