Distance Learning Committee Recommendation to Make RSI Review Required Part of SPOT Recertification

## Distance Learning Committee Membership

Josh Cabrera, Sable Cantus, Katie Datko, Luis Echeverria Newberry, L.E. Foisia, Lauren Greenberg, Hong Guo, Mike Hood, Carol Impara, Dana Johnson, Tammy Knott-Silva, Catherine McKee (co-chair), Sonia Ortega, Romelia Salinas (co-chair), Eric Turner, Ann Walker, Sandra Weatherilt. Guests: Michael Dowdle, Sheila Wright (RSI Coordinators)

## History and Rationale

In Spring 2019, the Distance Learning Committee (DLC) formed a subgroup in response to negotiated language in the Agreement between the Faculty Association and Mt. SAC District regarding what was then Regular Effective Contact (REC). The DLC made recommendations and created a REC Review Rubric.

Changes were made to the both the federal and state language and in 2022 the DLC re-visited the topic of, now, Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI) in response to Article 13.A.4 of the [Faculty Contract](https://www.mtsac.edu/hr/facultyassociationcontract/2019_2022_Year_2_of_3_Faculty_Contract_030722_Final_TOC_fix.pdf) which states that:

There shall be a certification process for regular and substantive interaction. This certification process is separate and distinct from the SPOT certification process. The Academic Senate, in consultation with the Faculty Association and the District, will create a rubric that identifies regular and substantive interaction. The rubric will be used only to determine regular and substantive interaction.

DLC along with the Merged Shells and Related Matters Workgroup included in their recommendations that RSI Review occur at regular intervals to coincide with SPOT Recertification.

In Spring 2024, Mt. SAC received a visit from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) The “Commission determined that the College must demonstrate compliance with...Standard II.A.7 and Policy on Distance Education and Correspondence Education (College Requirement 1) ...that the college ensure that regular and substantive interaction takes place in distance education courses.”

In response to this recommendation made by the ACCJC, the Academic Senate approved recommendations, and a side letter was signed by the District and the Faculty Association to have all faculty teaching asynchronous, online courses complete an RSI Review during Fall 2024/Winter 2025.

Included in Phase 2 (Institutionalization – Spring 2025 and Beyond) of the Academic Senate Task Force Recommendations, specifically Recommendation 6, is to incorporate RSI Review into the SPOT recertification process. The Taskforce recommends that:

DLC modify the SPOT recertification process to include RSI as one of the four required hours of the current SPOT recertification process. This one hour of RSI might consist of the faculty member using the RSI rubric to self-assess their course, whereupon completion the faculty member can add to their course shell as an unpublished page.

The Senate Task Force Recommendations further say that, starting in Fall 2025, RSI Review be conducted by RSI Faculty Coordinators for faculty completing their SPOT Recertification. Starting this Fall 2024 with the help of Faculty Mentors appointed by Academic Senate, Faculty Coordinators are conducting RSI Reviews of all asynchronous online courses. However, RSI Review has yet to be incorporated into SPOT Recertification. It is felt that RSI Review being a required part of SPOT Recertification, along with a stipend that is available, will encourage Faculty to complete their RSI Review.

## Recommendation

The Distance Learning Committee recommends that including RSI Review as a required component of SPOT Re-certification not wait until Spring 2025 (and beyond). Instead the DLC recommends amending the current SPOT Recertification process to include one hour of RSI Review (in accordance with the Faculty Contract) as a **required** part of the four required hours for SPOT Recertification, to **start in Fall 2024**. The SPOT Recertification requirements for the 2024-2025 Academic Year would be:

If a faculty member is teaching a Distance Learning course in the 2024-2025 Academic Year and they are due for SPOT Recertification, the requirements would be:

* 1-hour mandatory Regulations Update self-paced course
* **1-hour mandatory RSI Review**
* 2-hours of additional, DLC approved workshops

If a faculty member is not teaching a Distance Learning course in the 2024-2025 Academic Year and they are due for SPOT Recertification, the requirements would be:

* 1-hour mandatory Regulations Update self-paced course
* 3-hours of additional, DLC approved workshops, **one of which should have an RSI focus.**