

Emergency COVID-19 Response: Endorse the Distance Learning Committee's Recommendations Resolution 2020-07

Whereas, the Academic Senate is the organization whose primary function is to make recommendations with respect to academic and professional matters (Title 5, 53200) and is primarily relied upon for curriculum and instruction, for grading policies, for student preparation and success, and for degree and certificate requirements (Board Policy 3255); and,

Whereas, requirements to extend online learning opportunities from the California Community College Chancellor's office, the US Department of Education, and The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) during in the COVID-19 crisis in future semesters have been articulated, the Distance Learning committee¹ (DLC) has completed recommendations for the Academic Senate related to DL amendments and faculty training to temporarily teach online; and,

Whereas, The Academic Senate and DLC recognize faculty primacy in the matter of course delivery and seeks to ensure that faculty may submit DL Amendment forms with a new category of "Fully Online by Mutual Agreement" (FOMA) if they determine that a course is only appropriate to offer online during emergency campus closures but not at other times; and,

Whereas, Mt SAC requires thorough peer review evaluation to teach online (Skills and Pedagogy for Online Teaching – SPOT) and the urgent move to online teaching does not allow sufficient time for all faculty to complete such training, the DLC has recommended a 4 hour "FOMA readiness" training for faculty not yet SPOT certified that emphasizes regular and effective contact, ADA compliance, and Canvas training.

Resolved, The Academic Senate seeks mutual agreement with the college administration to establish that courses with FOMA designations on the DL Amendments will not be scheduled in non-emergency times; and,

Resolved, The Academic Senate seeks mutual agreement with the college administration to establish that the FOMA readiness training recommended by the DLC is minimally compliant to meet distance education regulations.

Contact: Kelly Rivera, Mt. SAC Academic Senate Legislative Liaison and Secretary and Professor of Political Science in the Department of Geography and Political Science

Last updated: K. Rivera 4/22/2020

Approved at Full Senate 5/14/2020

Accepted at Academic Mutual Agreement Council 5.26.2020

¹ [DLC Recommendations: Online Campus Offerings for Summer and Fall 2020 \(4.15.20\)](#)

