

Orange Coast College Academic Senate

COVID, Student-Centered Teaching, Faculty Choice Resolution #F-2021-4

Moved by AS Secretary Prof. Marilyn Kennedy

Seconded by AS Parliamentarian Dr. Eduardo Jesús Arismendi-Pardi

Passed by the Orange Coast College Academic Senate on December 14, 2021

Whereas, Issues related to COVID and teaching intersect two purviews: **(1)** Union (safety, modalities, hours of work, time on campus) and **(2)** Senate (curriculum, modalities, standards and policies regarding student success, and educational program development);*

Whereas, Contract language and scheduling policies were written mostly pre-COVID;

Whereas, District COVID on-campus protocols have demanded additional work duties from faculty to ensure classroom COVID compliance, ascertain student health/status, assure classroom safety, and monitor classroom security, yet faculty are neither professional health workers nor law enforcement officers;

Whereas, Other campuses prioritize COVID safety protocols *and* academic excellence, offering teaching flexibility and safety to their faculty and allowing faculty choice in both the modality of teaching and their level of COVID safety or need as per campus presence;

Whereas, Students are choosing work over college, with California community colleges suffering from a 10.6% to 14.8% loss in students (*Los Angeles Times*, 11/18/2021, *Inside Higher Ed*, 11-8-2021, respectively);

Whereas, Students deserve more choices as they prioritize work, family, and educational obligations;

Whereas, In our own District, CFE President Robert Schneiderman addressed these COVID safety and student flexibility issues in his November 9th Academic Senate public comments on faculty purview:

[T]he OCC schedule is a Back-to-the Future schedule that's a lot closer to a pre-pandemic schedule than anyone anticipated. Currently, approximately 15% of the classes being offered are being offered either online or live online at OCC compared to 30% of those classes at Golden West. . . .during the student registration process, by far the most popular classes with the highest fill rates are these online or live online classes. . . .The faculty will want classes that are scheduled to meet students' needs....

Whereas, Faculty know their most successful teaching styles and modalities and are keenly aware of their students' needs and successes: on-campus, Canvas, Zoom, or a hybrid of these;

Whereas, Classes scheduled a year in advance lessen flexibility in both COVID safety issues and changing student needs;

Whereas, CFE Contract 12.13.b. states "Load for Full-Time Faculty Members shall be assigned first," but 12.13.j. adds "Part-time faculty shall be given no less than two (2) weeks to provide their scheduling preferences which should include day and time of availability, course preferences, specialized expertise and delivery mode."

Be It Resolved that during COVID the Coast Community College District focus on evolving student needs, honor individual faculty choice in teaching modalities (per curriculum and contract), suspend required campus presence, schedule more flexibly and nearer to term, extend temporary COVID accommodations, enforce Covid safety protocols, ensure COVID mandates and testing are strictly followed and appropriately confirmed before student classroom entry.

***Union**: Its purview is working conditions and compensation as per the EERA. This includes safety and job/duty assignments including teaching, modality, hours of work, and "physical presence."

Senate: Its purview is teaching and curriculum as per AB 1725. This includes curriculum, modalities (on campus, Zoom, Canvas, self-paced, and their variations), academic standards, standards and policies regarding student success, and educational program development. Faculty are the ones directly in touch with all the students on a regular, personal basis.