



October 11, 2021

Dr. Dinesh Pinisetty
Chair Academic Senate
California State University Maritime Academy
200 Maritime Academy Drive
Vallejo, California 94590

Subject: Senate Resolution 21-22/02 – Request for Continued Accommodations and Flexibility for Fall 2021 Due to the Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic

Dear Dr. Pinisetty,

Thank you for forwarding Senate Resolution **21-22/02 – Request for Continued Accommodations and Flexibility for Fall 2021 Due to the Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic**, which was adopted by the Academic Senate of California State University Maritime Academy. I will respond to the two most salient requests made in this document.

The first “Resolved” asks that the authority for determining the modality of any and all courses be ceded to individual faculty and their department chairs. Simply put, I am not willing to abdicate that authority, primarily because I believe the outcome would not be in the best interest of our cadets, who are required to live and take classes on campus. The Cal Maritime cadet experience and the maritime academy mission is deeply rooted in experiential in-person learning. If there were a significant risk to faculty (vaccinated and masked) or their loved ones at home because of the requirement for in-person teaching, I would rethink the matter. But the data simply do not support the view that faculty (again, vaccinated and masked) put either themselves or their families at significant risk by teaching in person on a 96%-vaccinated campus, which is a wholly different environment from the entirety of Solano County.

The request made in the second “Resolved” is at odds with that made in the first. This second request asks not that online modality be given as an “option” to all faculty, to be determined in conjunction with department chairs, but rather asks simply that the Provost and Deans exercise “flexibility . . . for the temporary use of online instruction for in-person classes” in the event that a faculty member cannot come to campus due to an actual COVID-related matter (such as being quarantined or caring for a sick family member). I find this second request to be a moot point since I am


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assured by the Provost that this practice of flexibility is already in place and that faculty have been informed that necessary absences from campus will be managed in the way they were prior to COVID, with flexibility. (See COVID-19 website FAQs [here](#), second bullet.) So, to be clear: I have no objection to this second request, but I do not find it to be a necessary one, as it is already our practice.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Cropper
President
CSU Maritime Academy

TAC/thc

cc: Dr. Lori Schroeder, Provost
Mr. Michael Martin, AVP Human Resources

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