

California State University Maritime Academy Faculty Senate

Resolution 21-22/02
September 16, 2021
1st Reading Waived
Vote (For/Against): 13/0

Request for Continued Accommodations and Flexibility for the Fall 2021 Semester Due to the Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic

WHEREAS, In the current COVID-19 “fourth wave” (mid-July to present), new confirmed cases in Solano County¹, the State of California², and United States³ have surged well above the case levels during the repopulation planning earlier in the year; and

WHEREAS, There are growing concerns regarding the Delta variant, which is “more than 2x as contagious as previous variants” according to the CDC⁴ and potential future variants;

WHEREAS, The CDC also states “Fully vaccinated people get COVID-19 (known as breakthrough infections) less often than unvaccinated people. People infected with the Delta variant, including fully vaccinated people with symptomatic breakthrough infections, can transmit the virus to others,”⁵; and

WHEREAS, Due to the surge in cases and prevalence of the Delta variant, the Chancellors Office has delayed repopulation until October 2021⁶, and Stanislaus State has delayed in-person on campus instruction until October 1, 2021⁷; and

WHEREAS, The Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) passed a resolution AS-3501-21/FA “Request for Continued Accommodations and Flexibility in the Time of COVID-19”⁸ on September 3, 2021, and

WHEREAS, Some members of the Cal Maritime community provide care for: i) someone with one or more of the list of conditions from the CDC, making them “more likely to get severely ill from COVID-19”⁹ and/or ii) children under the age 12 who are currently ineligible for COVID-19 vaccines, and

¹ <https://covid19.ca.gov/state-dashboard/#location-solano>

² <https://covid19.ca.gov/state-dashboard/>

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/covidview/index.html>

⁴ https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html?s_cid=11512:cdc%20on%20delta%20variant:sem.ga:p:RG:GM:gen:PTN:FY21

⁵ https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html?s_cid=11512:cdc%20on%20delta%20variant:sem.ga:p:RG:GM:gen:PTN:FY21

⁶ Published on “CO in the Know” website. <https://www2.calstate.edu/coitk/Pages/post.aspx?p=963>

⁷ <https://www.csustan.edu/covid-19/fall-2021>

⁸ <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/faculty-staff/academic-senate/resolutions/2021-2022/3501.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>

WHEREAS, The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in “What You Should Know About COVID-19 and the ADA, the Rehabilitation Act, and Other EEO Laws”¹⁰ states “The ADA does not require that an employer accommodate an employee without a disability based on the disability-related needs of a family member or other person with whom she is associated. ... Of course, an employer is free to provide such flexibilities if it chooses to do so,” and

WHEREAS, The faculty remain committed to the academic mission of the institution and delivering a quality educational experience and maintaining academic continuity through potential disruptions during this continuing COVID-19 pandemic;

BE IT THEREFORE

RESOLVED: That the Faculty Senate request that for the Fall 2021 semester, Cal Maritime provides an option for individual instructors to work with their department chairs (or with the full department faculty if there is no chair) to modify the teaching pedagogy (including modality of instruction) to address COVID-19 related concerns while ensuring a quality learning experience and meeting the course learning objectives; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Faculty Senate urge for the Fall 2021 semester the Provost and Deans to honor, as much as possible, ad hoc flexibility in practices and policies for the temporary use of online instruction for in-person classes that applied prior to the pandemic to avoid cancelling classes in the event a faculty is able to teach but may not do so in person, due to COVID related concerns, such as quarantine; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Faculty Senate request for the Fall 2021 semester for all faculty to provide a clear and timely written notice (e.g., e-mail, Brightspace notification) of modifications made due to COVID-19 related situations to all students enrolled in the class; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Cal Maritime Faculty Senate distribute this policy to the School Deans, Library Dean, Associate Provosts, the Student Leadership, and the Cabinet of CSU Maritime Academy.

The Cal Maritime Faculty Senate would like to acknowledge the ASCSU, which served as the basis for this resolution.

¹⁰ <https://www.eeoc.gov/wysk/what-you-should-know-about-covid-19-and-ada-rehabilitation-act-and-other-eeo-laws>