



Adoption of OEI Evaluation Rubric as Standard of Excellence for All Online Courses at MSJC

Whereas, The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges in Spring 2013 Resolution No. 19.06 “Certification of Faculty to Teach Distance Education Courses” noted that “federal and state regulations, as well as accreditation standards, require that colleges ensure that distance education (DE) course offerings meet the same standards of instructional quality as on-site courses” and that “distance education pedagogical methods differ significantly from on-site instructional pedagogy, and as a result, effective, quality DE instruction requires faculty with relevant skills and training in distance education delivery and pedagogy to promote student success in this modality”; and

Whereas, Mt. San Jacinto College’s Educational Master Plan for 2016-2023 notes that “over three academic years (2011-14), average overall success rates in distance education/hybrid courses are consistently lower at 63% than the more traditional instructional face-to-face modality 70%...Additionally, withdrawal rates are extremely high in the online education environment, with students withdrawing at a rate of 13%. This withdrawal phenomenon, impacts students, in lengthening their time-to-completion;” and

Whereas, Mt. San Jacinto College’s Academic Senate recognizes that there is a discrepancy between online and face to face course success and retention rates; and

Whereas, the Online Education Initiative designed a rubric “intended to establish standards relating to course design, interaction and collaboration, assessment, learner support, and accessibility in order to ensure the provision of a high quality learning environment that promotes student success and conforms to existing regulations (Online Course Design Standards, n.d.);” and

Whereas, The Mt. San Jacinto College (MSJC) Academic Senate adopted the “original” rubric as the recommended guide for online courses at Mt. San Jacinto College in April of 2016 to promote the quality and integrity of Mt. San Jacinto College’s online instruction; and

Whereas, The Online Education Initiative revised and updated the evaluation rubric in November 2016; and

Whereas, Faculty are primarily discipline experts and not necessarily formally trained or certificated in online course design and effective pedagogical practices; and

Whereas, Mt. San Jacinto College’s Academic Senate recognizes that in order to achieve the Online Education Initiative’s standard of excellence, significant professional development must be offered to faculty to develop effective practices for instruction, course design, and accessibility compliance;

Resolved, The Mt. San Jacinto College’s Academic Senate recommends adoption of the revised Online Education Initiative’s evaluation rubric as a standard of excellence for distance education courses and as a guiding tool to identify areas of improvement for faculty to support student success and retention.

Resolved, The Mt. San Jacinto College’s Academic Senate urges the administration to sufficiently invest in the necessary professional development of faculty with instructional, accessibility, and technological experts to assist faculty with meeting the Online Education Initiative’s standard of excellence to elevate the overall quality and integrity of the distance education program.

Adopted: April 11, 2017

Online Course Design (n.d.). *California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office*. Retrieved from <http://ccconlined.org/faculty-resources/professional-development/online-course-design-standards>