



## **Academic Affairs Update**

October 1, 2021

Dear AVC Community,

Below please find the latest update from Academic Affairs:

### **1. Memorandum of Understanding on Student Surveys (Class Climate) and the Tenure Process**

Earlier this week the District and AVCFT signed off on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the academic year 2021-22. Pending Board ratification at the October meeting, the following will be implemented effective immediately:

- a. Student Surveys (aka Class Climate) will be executed electronically, regardless of the course delivery method (asynchronous, synchronous, face-to-face, or HyFlex). The only exception to this rule applies to courses taught in the Prison Program where student surveys will be conducted on paper.
- b. The tenure process is simplified and aligned with the Education Code: tenure-track faculty will be evaluated during Fall semesters only. Spring semester evaluations are eliminated except for cases where the tenure-track faculty member has received an "Unsatisfactory" or "Needs to Improve" rating in the preceding Fall semester. Furthermore, faculty hired in the tenure track in Spring 2022 will undergo their first evaluation in Fall 2022.
- c. All tenure packets are due to the Vice Presidents' offices (Academic Affairs and Student Services) by the last day of Fall semester.

Many thanks to the Academic Senate, our Tenure Coordinator, my amazing Assistant, the AVCFT Negotiating Team, and the District's Legal Counsel for their efforts in bringing this MOU to fruition.

## **2. Spring Schedule and Eligibility to Teach Online Courses**

The Spring 2022 schedule is currently under construction and will go live on October 15. Priority registration is due to commence on November 15 with general registration set for early December.

The Spring offerings are a combination of face-to-face, HyFlex, synchronous, and asynchronous courses. If you recall, all faculty were given the option to "turn off" the HyFlex option in their course assignments by September 23. Synchronous classes have been assigned to eligible\* faculty with the pre-COVID caveat that fulltime instructors should have a minimum of 50 percent of their assignment on campus.

\*Faculty assigned to a remote modality course will need to have completed a DE training prior to the start of Spring in accordance with the Academic Senate guidelines established in April 2021: [Senate Guidelines on DE](#)

Faculty wishing to undergo DE training prior to the start of Spring semester have a final opportunity for in-house (synchronous, online) instruction by Dr. Alex Parisky during four Friday sessions in October and November.

### **The instruction dates and times are:**

October 29, November 5, November 12, and November 19  
10:00am-2pm

There will also be an asynchronous version dedicated to adjunct faculty over the same range of dates.

**PLEASE WAIT FOR DR. PARISKY'S EMAIL TO SIGN UP FOR THIS COURSE.**

### **3. HyFlex Summer Surveys**

During the Summer months, a subgroup of DETC met on a regular basis to monitor the challenges and opportunities of the HyFlex model. The group, with the assistance of Dr. Deplazes, developed a survey for students who had enrolled in a Summer HyFlex course and another for faculty who taught one.

Student Survey: [Summer Hyflex Student Survey](#)

Faculty Survey: [Summer Hyflex Faculty Survey](#)

### **4. Guided Pathways, Metamajors, and the Catalog**

A working group consisting of instructional and counseling faculty and AA staff has developed a list of Metamajors (areas of study) that is currently reviewed by counselors, ASO, and the deans' group. The proposal, alongside the edits, will be shared at the October Guided Pathways Committee meeting and subsequently submitted to the Academic Senate.

A second group, consisting of AP&P co-chairs, instructional and counseling faculty, and AA staff is working on a two-year catalog revision. This semester's task is to identify all redundancies and inaccuracies before we launch into an alignment of the catalog with the areas of study. The group may reach out to discipline faculty for input and will greatly appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely,  
-Isabelle Saber  
VPAA