

Modesto Junior College (MJC)
Academic Senate Resolution S20-A:
Instructional Emergency Preparedness Planning and Virtual Academic
Senate Meetings

Proposed by MJC Academic Senate Executive

Whereas: In the event of an emergency, when all or some face-to-face classes cannot take place and/or all or some students cannot attend face-to-face classes, there are some important actions to take for the safety of all, including enabling remote instruction, office hours, student services, and a virtual participatory governance protocols; and,

Whereas: The recent State of California, Governor's Executive Order 202-5 from March 12, 2020 currently allows the move to remote participatory governance by stating:

“Notwithstanding any other provision of state or local law, including the Bagley-Keene Act or the Brown Act, a local legislative body or state body is authorized to hold public meetings via teleconferencing and to make public meetings accessible telephonically or otherwise electronically to all members of the public seeking to attend and to address the local legislative body or state body, during the period in which state or local public officials impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing, including but not limited to limitations on public events. All requirements in both the Bagley-Keene Act and the Brown Act expressly or impliedly requiring the physical presence of members, the clerk or other personnel of the body, or of the public as a condition of participation in or quorum for a public meeting are hereby waived.”

Whereas: The Covid-19 global pandemic poses a serious risk to public health, including MJC students, faculty, classified professionals and administrative leadership; and local, state and federal officials continue to ask all citizens to practice social distancing and not gather in groups of larger than 10 people for the near future; and,

Whereas: MJC's campuses are temporarily shutting down from Monday, March 23 through the end of Friday, April 3 (to be reassessed at that time) and instruction, office hours, counseling and participatory governance will continue during the Covid-19 outbreak in a remote fashion.

Therefore: The MJC Academic Senate reminds faculty that during the two-week (minimum) shut-down, it is preferable to delay face-to-face labs until at least Monday, April 6th. However, essential labs may take place, but with no more than 10 students at one physical location, with a dean present to supervise the implementation of social distance and hygiene recommendations from local, state and federal agencies; and,

Therefore: The MJC Academic Senate supports the current Instructional Emergency Preparedness Planning related to the Covid-19 viral outbreak, which will allow for remote learning, serving of students and a virtual structure for participatory governance, including meetings of the Senate and the Senate Executive, until at least April 3, 2020.