

**ACADEMIC
SENATE &
COCFA**

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Fall 2021 Joint Town Hall Report Out

OVERVIEW



The pandemic has created many challenges and presented just as many opportunities. These opportunities may not be fully realized for many years.

The three Town Halls were open to faculty to discuss what has worked and what hasn't during the pandemic as well as to share their thoughts about the Future of Education at COC.

As stewards of the academic programs and departments, the faculty were passionate about their experiences and frustrations.

OVERALL THEME - FLEXIBILITY



Not surprisingly, the overall theme was flexibility. A “one-size-fits-all” approach will not work in the future of education. Flexibility is the most important quality needed for the success of the college and its programs.

Flexibility must not be co-opted as a token term that is bandied about but not meaningfully supported.

There will be issues with a flexible approach, and it won't be perfect. It is not meant to be excellent out of the gate. We will need to see how things go and develop and importantly, see what modality students enroll in.

OVERALL THEME

- Instructor Modality
Assignment (10 TLU issues)
- Student supply and demand
issues necessitate flexibility
- Counseling – “Online
counseling is here to stay.”
- Campus governance
approach? (e.g, committee
work etc...)
- Class capacity

OVERALL THEME

-Flexibility should also extend to non-instructional faculty areas on campus as well. Productivity has increased during the pandemic. That productivity should be supported and encouraged.

-Flexibility also encourages repurposing space on campus to be better used in the future for meeting space, office space, or other instructional space such as enclosed cubicles for students to attend and participate in Zoom classes.

OVERALL THEME



Flexibility supports faculty academic freedom and the varying needs of college programs as well as the student of the future. It can help bolster the college's dedication to climate-neutral policies and practices. The time is ripe to seize the opportunity to make meaningful progress on our resolutions by encouraging a hybrid work schedule.

OVERALL THEME

Part of the opportunities the pandemic afforded has been increased student to faculty contact and committee work because of zoom. Office hours on zoom or even a quick meeting via zoom has led to significant interaction between faculty.

In addition, faculty presence at and participating in committee meetings has increased due to the ease of attending meetings via zoom. These are two examples of flexibility that should continue.

OVERALL THEME

Respect and deference for the faculty's expertise in their subject matter must be paramount throughout the process of examining flexibility for programs. The faculty must be given the opportunity to determine what courses should be taught in which modalities.

OVERALL THEME

Full parking lots are not an indication of a successful college. There are many other more meaningful predictors of student and college success such as completion of degrees, retention, etc.

Flexibility would necessitate examining students' needs for in person connection for classes that need to be delivered on campus. The student engagement does not automatically occur with a full parking lot. It must be meaningful, deliberate, and planned.

OVERALL THEME

The tendency may be to examine how businesses have responded to the pandemic and work modalities. However, the nature of business is complicated. Business responses will likely continue to develop and evolve over time.

Examining the nature of work is important but should not be the deciding factor for determining program delivery.

Notations

- ▶ **-Some faculty have seen programs prosper with more remote modalities.**
- ▶ **-Other faculty have seen programs hurt as a result of not being on campus in a f2f modality.**
- ▶ **-Remote instruction normalizes isolation in an unhealthy way for many of our students.**
- ▶ **-10 TLU COCFA provision needs to be revised for practical and academic purposes.**

Notations

- ▶ **-Consider cap sizes being lowered for some courses and programs.**
- ▶ **-Senate has responsibility for creating strong standards of instruction for new emerging modalities.**
- ▶ **-We are beholden to supply and demand of students.**
- ▶ **-Labs are most effective on campus.**
- ▶ **-UCs and CSUs require Labs to be on campus. They will not continue accepting remote/online Labs two years into the pandemic.**

Notations

- ▶ **-Bottom line: need instructional flexibility to address all the new and competing variables.**
- ▶ **-Counseling - "multiple modalities are great, but staffing issues make this unsustainable."**
- ▶ **-Return to Campus (Long Term) - reimagine campus life. Qualitatively.**
- ▶ **-Need more passing time between classes due to different modalities.**

Notations

- ▶ -What will post pandemic governance and campus work (e.g. committees) look like?
- ▶ -Counseling: "online counseling is here to stay."
- ▶ -Align diversity of modality for instruction with diversity of modality for student services.
- ▶ -Counsel students back to a f2f campus and classroom environment.
- ▶ -More therapy dogs.