

Response to the 3.2.23 Resolution Re. Class Cancellations as Enrollment Management Tool

March 30, 2023

Dear President Goldstein and Senators,

We do appreciate your resolution, as it highlights the importance of our collective work to best serve the students and fulfil our mission, vision and goals and giving hope to and empowering the most vulnerable of our society. We also consider ourselves very privileged to work with the COA Academic Senate which has always been leading the college into more proactive and effective practices.

As stated previously in several senate and chairs meetings, it is the goal of the Office of Instruction to keep the cancellations at the minimum possible and hopefully to reduce it to zero, as each time that we do cancel a class we are cognizant of the barriers imposed on students and the COA family members. The Office of Instruction team comes from the ranks of faculty, and they have firsthand experience and are fully aware of the impact of these cancellations. As previous faculty and colleagues, we also have a heightened responsibility to work together to minimize these cancellations.

In addition to adhering to Article 18 guidelines, and as we continue to recover from the Pandemic impact on our enrollment, we have also paid special attention to providing multiple entry points for students streamlining the short-term course. In addition, we also have paid special attention to equity data and the success rate data to ensure that we create a schedule that provides equitable access and success for all students, especially the disproportionately impacted groups and engaged in discipline level dialogue utilizing data and students' feedback. There is of course more work ahead and we are committed to working together.

To improve practices and ongoing collaboration, we are in the process of establishing an Enrollment Management taskforce that will bring together instructional faculty, counselors, department chairs, classified professionals, and administrators, where all constituencies can leverage knowledge and skills to strengthen enrollment and retention while leveraging IEPI, GP, SEA and other initiative and resources. We will provide a presentation to the Senate to garner more feedback about this taskforce.

In sum, we are fully committed to working with the Academic Senate to strengthen current practices and engage in an open and respectful dialogue.

Thank you and hope that you are enjoying the Spring Break.

Warmly,

Acting President Dr. Diana Bajrami
Interim Vice President of Instruction Maurice Jones
Deans: Reza Majlesi, Lilia Celhay, Eva Jennings