Senate Resolution on Finals Week

Whereas finals week has traditionally been a time when faculty are encouraged to not introduce new material, but rather to review and allow students time to prepare for their finals;

Whereas faculty are struggling with the best ways to educate our students under very difficult circumstances, including new teaching modalities as well as the loss of a week of classroom time;

Whereas the COVID-19 crisis has added tremendous stress to our students' lives, as many students and their families have lost employment, many who do not learn well in a distance modality are being forced to learn that way, and many do not have adequate computer and wifi resources;

Whereas, the COVID 19 Shelter In Place order and sudden forced conversion to online modalities for courses led the district to move the first date of Spring 2020 classes to April 13 rather than April 6 and make the period of April 6-13 a Flex Week for faculty to focus on shifting course content to online modality;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Academic Senate of De Anza College encourages faculty, to the extent feasible, to respect the practice of not introducing new material in classes during finals week, and,

Be it further resolved that the Academic Senate of De Anza College encourages faculty and campus messaging to refer to weeks by the specific dates (e.g. "Week of April 13-19") rather than "Week 1," "Week 2, " etc. since that will help provide much more clarity on which week is being referred to.

Whereas faculty are struggling with the best ways to educate our students under very difficult circumstances, including new teaching modalities as well as the loss of a week of classroom time, and

Whereas the COVID-19 crisis has added tremendous stress to our students' lives, as many students and their families have lost employment, many who do not learn well in a distance modality are being forced to learn that way, and many do not have adequate computer and wifi resources,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Academic Senate of De Anza College encourages faculty, to the extent feasible, to respect the practice of holding a single culminating activity for each class

during finals week (April 22 - 26, 2020). In the case of classes originally scheduled for on campus, that same time-frame should be adhered to.

Hi All,

My thoughts: For any classes meeting synchronously, the final exam schedule must be followed to prevent scheduling conflicts. Regardless of whether faculty choose to include instruction during finals week, they cannot require any meetings outside of the scheduled exam times.

Thank you,

-thomas

[bob stockwell: i was under the impression the concern was in part about new material, but the other/larger(?) concern was about faculty not observing the final exam schedule times; i.e., asking students to be available during times outside the formal final exam times for classes. I raised the PGA issue at executive council yesterday, as well as this final exam issue, and Kathy Perino emphasized the fact that the academic calendar is a negotiated/contractual thing, and therefore is not something faculty can observe or not observe as they see fit. Given that she and Tim will be at the academic senate meeting on Monday, let's take up the issue directly with them. How does that sound?]