



## **Resolution for Return to F2F Labs for Spring 2021**

*Passed unanimously on October 27, 2020*

Whereas, laboratory work is intended to result in experiential learning through the process of manipulating materials, making observations, and measurements, through doing as well as thinking;

Whereas, laboratory work frequently requires using special materials and equipment that can only be offered on campus under the supervision of an instructor;

Whereas, lab instruction through demonstration videos and simulations does not required the same level of critical thinking skills and troubleshooting skills as performing the experiment hands-on, and virtual laboratory platforms provide at best crude approximations of the actual experience and do not provide simulations for all the experiments required for some courses;

Whereas, the Course Outlines of Record for laboratory courses frequently include objectives and exit skills that cannot be fully met though remote delivery;

Whereas, some professional programs are requiring that prerequisite science courses include face-to-face lab instruction;

Whereas other Bay Area community college districts are currently offering on-campus lab courses and our students may find themselves in classes with peers that are much better prepared for the next phase of their education upon transferring to four-year colleges and universities;

Whereas, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) currently allows for on-campus class meetings for Tier 2 counties;

Whereas, faculty have already made plans to drastically reduce the number of students in a laboratory during any given session to achieve adequate distancing and to deliver as much content online as is reasonable;

Whereas, chemistry laboratories have excellent continuous ventilation, many laboratories can be easily retrofitted with plexiglass dividers, and use of PPE is already part of the laboratory safety curriculum; and

Whereas, safety protocols were piloted this fall 2020 with the essential services classes and during the spring extension hours held successfully summer 2020;

BE IT RESOLVED that all CTE and science classes that need to have hands-on hours during their lab classes be allowed to teach them with established social distancing and compliance with established safety protocols; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the district to develop (1) metrics and criteria of concerns it feels need to be addressed to allow face-to-face lab hours in CTE and science classes to occur in Spring 2021 and (2) a process for approval of protocols, contact tracing mechanisms and risk assessment from the County to allow face-to-face lab hours to be taught.