



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.