

5/2/2024 Resolution of the Academic Senate of the College of Alameda

End use of class cancellations as a routine enrollment management tool

WHEREAS, cancellation of a class section is harmful to educational success of students enrolled in the section, as well as to employment security of faculty assigned to teach and to institutional effectiveness and stability of the college,

WHEREAS, College of Alameda has cancelled (or changed schedule/modality of) an average of 10.68% of all scheduled sections, from Summer 2008 to Spring 2024, which indicates the routine use of class cancellation as an enrollment management tool¹,

WHEREAS, the rate at which College of Alameda has cancelled (or changed schedule/modality of) scheduled class sections has increased in recent semesters, to 14.67% in Fall 2021, 26.85% in Spring 2022, 16.84% in Summer 2022, 11.56% in Fall 2022, and 15.67% in Spring 2023, with only AY 2023-2024 cancellation rates breaking this trend (6.00% in Summer, 8.62% in Fall, and 8.92% in Spring),

WHEREAS, a substantial number of sections cancelled by College of Alameda are the sole section of the class taught at College of Alameda, further disrupting student education plan for those enrolled in the cancelled sections (27 sections in Spring 2022, 8 sections in Summer 2022, 12 sections in Fall 2022, 21 sections in Spring 2023, 5 sections in Summer 2023, 11 sections in Fall 2023, and 5 sections in Spring 2024),

WHEREAS, the budgeting process for the full-time equivalent faculty (FTEF) in use at College of Alameda since Fall 2018, called “discipline plans,” already ensures that the college schedules class sections “within our means” while fulfilling our mission and maximizing the number of full-time equivalent students (FTES) that the college can claim,

WHEREAS, the College of Alameda Academic Senate has previously passed the resolution “[End use of class cancellations as a routine enrollment management tool](#)” on March 2, 2023,

BE IT RESOLVED, the College of Alameda Academic Senate reaffirms its position formally recommending that the College of Alameda management cease and disavow use of class cancellations as a routine tool of enrollment management and invites the College of Alameda management to engage with the academic senate for more effective planning approaches to better steward public funds with which we serve our students and fulfill our institutional mission.

¹ Analysis of PeopleSoft data, for all semesters from Summer 2008 (Term code 1083) to Spring 2024 (Term code 1242). Excel spreadsheet containing the data and analysis available on request.

DRAFT RESOLUTION – Spring 2024

Title: End use of class cancellations as a routine enrollment management tool

WHEREAS, cancellation of a class section is harmful to the educational success of students enrolled in the section, as well as to the employment security of faculty assigned to teach and to the institutional effectiveness and stability of the college,

WHEREAS, Berkeley City College and its sibling campuses have routinely canceled (or changed schedule/modality of) courses in all semesters and terms, effectively using class cancellation as an enrollment management tool,

WHEREAS, the increase of class cancellations and sudden changes to modality and start dates has occurred at Berkeley City College at an increasing rate in recent years, only abating briefing when pressured by faculty constituency groups such as DAS and PFT,

WHEREAS, the budgeting process for the full-time equivalent faculty (FTEF) in use throughout the district already ensures that the colleges schedule their class sections “within their means” while fulfilling our mission and maximizing the number of full-time equivalent students (FTES) that the college can claim,

WHEREAS, the Berkeley City College Academic Senate is committed to consistent scheduling for faculty, but also to the consistent and robust availability of classes to our students, many of whom come to our campus without the resources and means to enroll in similar courses at four-year institutions,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Berkeley City College Academic Senate affirms our position, formally recommending that the Berkeley City College Administration cease and disavow the use of class cancellations as a routine tool of enrollment management and invites the Berkeley City College Administration to engage with the academic senate for more effective planning approaches to better steward the gift of public funds with which we serve our students and fulfill our institutional mission.

Leslie Blackie
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Vice-President

Chris Weidenbach
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Secretary

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William Trego
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English

Barbara Yasue
ESOL

Dana Grisby
Ethnic Studies

Josh Ramos
Kinesiology/Physical Ed.

William Trego
Donald Moore
Nat Pyle
Liberal Arts

Mathematics

John Reager
Music

Sarah Backes-Diaz
Kimm Blackwell
R. Constant/Y. Wang
Kathy Ma
Student Services

Jacqueline Burgess
Vina Cera
Part-Time Faculty

Kimberly King
At Large

LANEY COLLEGE



FACULTY SENATE

Resolution for End Class Cancellation as Enrollment Management Strategy

May 7, 2024

WHEREAS, cancellation of a class section is harmful to educational success of students enrolled in the section, as well as to the employment security of faculty assigned to teach and to the institutional effectiveness and stability of the college;

WHEREAS, last minute cancellations and modality changes create burdensome disruptions for our students leaving students with fewer choices, longer paths to graduation and a deepening of existing inequities;

WHEREAS, Laney College has canceled (or changed schedule/modality of) an average of 8% of all scheduled sections, from Fall 2010 to Fall 2023, which indicates the routine use of class cancellation as an enrollment management tool[1], increasing from a low of 5% cancellation in 2010;

WHEREAS, we continue to see the post pandemic trend of online classes enrolling in higher numbers, putting the face to face modalities at an increased risk of being canceled while simultaneously requesting the faculty to schedule more face to face classes;

WHEREAS last-minute class cancellations result in undue stress for faculty with last minute schedule changes in either class or modality that interfere with the faculty's ability to have adequate time to prepare classes that best support the educational success of students;

WHEREAS PFT contract article 18, lists thresholds of class sizes that CANNOT be canceled but is used by the administration to imply classes below that number SHOULD be canceled or have the modality changed, a disservice to student planning;

WHEREAS, the budgeting process for the full-time equivalent faculty (FTEF) in use at Laney College already ensures that the college schedules class sections "within our means" while fulfilling our mission and maximizing the number of full-time equivalent students (FTES) that the college can claim;

WHEREAS, the Laney Faculty Senate previously passed a Resolution for Restoration of FTEF in October 2022 and a Resolution to Explore Alternative Enrollment Strategies in March 2022;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Laney Senate asks the Laney administration to advocate to the District administration for additional FTEF when required to maintain the established course schedule and avoid class cancellations

BE IT RESOLVED, the Laney College Academic Senate reaffirms its position formally recommending that the Laney College management cease and disavow use of class cancellations as a routine tool of enrollment management and invites the Laney College management to engage with the academic senate for more effective planning approaches to better steward public funds with which we serve our students and fulfill our institutional mission.

[1] Analysis of PeopleSoft data, for all semesters from Fall 2010 (Term code 1104) to Fall 2023 (Term code 1234). Excel spreadsheet containing the data and analysis available on request.

MCAS RESOLUTION – 5/2/2024

End the use of class cancellations as an enrollment management tool

WHEREAS, cancellation of a class section is harmful to the educational success of students enrolled in the section, as well as to the employment security of faculty assigned to teach and to the institutional effectiveness and stability of the college,

WHEREAS, the Merritt College Academic Senate acknowledges that the Merritt Administration in recent years has made significant strides towards having an open discussion and has worked with department chairs to minimize the need for cancellations while prioritizing student needs.

WHEREAS, the negative financial and operational impacts from last-minute scheduling changes should be borne by those who made the original scheduling and modality decisions, not by the students and faculty who were not involved in making those scheduling decisions.

WHEREAS, the budgeting process for the full-time equivalent faculty (FTEF) in use at Merritt College is supposed to ensure that the college schedules class sections “within our means” while fulfilling our mission and maximizing the number of full-time equivalent students (FTES) that the college can claim,

WHEREAS, Merritt College will be transitioning in Fall 2024 to a significant increase of in-person classes to better serve students who were left behind by the online teaching environment. This dramatic change from Fall 2023 of 70% online class offerings to 50% (scheduled for Fall 2024) fully in-person classes may drastically impact enrollment numbers for our college.

WHEREAS, the Merritt College Academic Senate has previously passed a resolution, see “MCAS Resolution on Class Cancellation Schedule Spring 2022”

RESOLVED, that the Merritt College Academic Senate reaffirms its position formally recommending that the Merritt College administration cease and disavow the use of class cancellations as a routine tool of enrollment management and invites the Merritt College Administration to closely engage with the department chairs and Academic Senate for more effective planning approaches to better steward public funds with which we serve our students and fulfill our institutional mission.

RESOLVED, that the Merritt College Academic Senate urges that classes not be canceled without the consultation and consent of the instructor and students impacted by the proposed changes.

RESOLVED, that the Merritt College Academic Senate asks the Merritt administration to advocate to the District administration for additional FTEFs when required to maintain the established course schedule and avoid class cancellations.

RESOLVED, that the Merritt College Academic Senate urges our administrators to immediately implement a weekly marketing campaign (via text, email, social media, and any other method deemed suitable) that highlights low enrolled courses, the recent schedule additions, and that reaches out to our current students and exhorts them to enroll in classes now to avoid the perils of cancellations.