

Subject: Fall 2020 Teaching Guidance and Summer Professional Development
Date: Friday, May 22, 2020 at 2:18:28 PM Pacific Daylight Time
From: Wallace, Jeremy
To: All Faculty
Attachments: image001.png, Guidance for Teaching - Fall 2020.pdf

Colleagues,

As you likely know already, the Board has accepted the District Academic Senate's recommendation that we offer all lecture-based courses online and that we transition all lab-based, hands-on courses to a hybrid modality. This recommendation was made in the best interests of the students', faculty's, staff's, and administration's health. We also wanted to make the recommendation before the end of spring so that we all had ample time to plan for Fall 2020.

In keeping with our District's "Students First" mission, it has become imperative that all members of the faculty are trained in offering distance education courses (including hybrid for the "hard-to-convert" courses). As ASLT Dean Rolin Moe has said, "In order to be a student-ready district, we must be a faculty-ready district." In other words, we need to be ready to offer our students (all 22,000 of them) the same high-quality teaching and learning that we are known for. We must strive to serve our students even in the midst of a pandemic; this is part of our District's DNA.

To make this a reality, the Distance Education professionals across the district are working together to offer online education training, which the majority of our faculty have not completed. This is a huge undertaking, but I am confident that we will all rise to the challenge. Over the next few months, the DE teams at all three campuses will be offering a 25-hour course that will provide faculty participants with knowledge on distance learning while simultaneously experiencing the tenets of a quality online course. These trainings will be cohorted and participants will be supported by campus facilitators, faculty embedded tutors, specialized course reviewers and a team of discipline experts (and of course, this training will be compensated per the AFT distance education MOU).

I know this seems like a lot. Personally, I have never taught a fully online course, so I am experiencing the same feelings of overwhelm, anxiety, and fear that many of you are. But I am also driven by my students, as I know you all are. I am eager to learn how to offer my Fall 2020 students the best educational experience possible. This is an opportunity for all of us to realize our goals as educators and discipline experts – student success and high-quality teaching and learning.

The local campuses will be sending out more information about this training. In the meantime, I encourage you to peruse the attached guidance on Fall 2020 online teaching, which was developed by the District Academic Senate's Task Force on Teaching and Learning (TTL). I'd like to thank all the members of the TTL for their hard work this semester and for supporting us in this transition to online education!

Finally, if you are an experienced online educator, we are looking for instructors to work as embedded tutors and reviewers for the summer trainings (which is compensated). Please reach out to your Dean of Academic Support and Learning Technologies or your DE coordinator if you are interested.

I know these are extremely trying times, but we will get through this pandemic. Please take some time to re-energize and unwind from this semester – you all deserve it!

In community,

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