

Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in more than a full academic year in which the majority of teaching has occurred remotely, and

Whereas, the need for campus-wide discussion of considerations surrounding the modalities in which are courses are offered is recognized, and

Whereas, the Faculty Senate intends to facilitate such discussion in the coming year, and

Whereas, the Academic Coordinating Commission is a standing committee of the Faculty Senate, and

Whereas, considerations relevant to discussion of course modalities include factors and topics exceeding the scope of the Academic Coordinating Commission's charge, and

Whereas, the Faculty Senate voted on 24 May 2021 to adopt the following Academic Coordinating Commission's motion of 18 May 2021 regarding Course Modality Oversight:

The Academic Coordinating Commission (ACC) reviews modality change proposals only for compliance with legal and university-level accreditation requirements regarding documentation of credit hours and instructional time. Departments and programs should have their own policies or guidelines in place outlining the criteria that are used to make decisions about the modalities in which courses are to be offered.

At this time, the ACC is pausing consideration of proposals for permanent modality revisions until such department/program-level policies or guidelines are put into place. Once a department or program has approved and documented policies or guidelines outlining how modality decisions will be made, the college-level curriculum body reviews them. If approved at the college level, proposals for modality change revisions may proceed to the ACC through permanent curriculum approval processes, where consideration of modality will be limited to whether the proposed revision complies with legal and university level accreditation requirements regarding documentation of credit hours and instructional time. All departments and programs are expected to have internal modality policies or guidelines in place by the conclusion of the 2021-22 academic year.

In the interim period, before such department/program-level policies are put in place, the ACC will implement a temporary modality approval process that will allow departments and programs to offer courses remotely by submitting documentation and a rationale for the temporary change. This process will be available until the end of the 2021-22 academic year, or until courses are eligible for permanent modality revision. Temporary approval expires at the end of the 2022-23 academic year. Courses that have already been approved with a permanent online modality attribute are exempt from this temporary approval process.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Faculty Senate is extending the duration of the Academic Coordinating Commission's moratorium upon consideration of modality changes through permanent curriculum approval processes to encompass one full academic year (2021-22) for the purpose of facilitating necessary campus-wide discussion of relevant issues.