



Adherence to Accessibility Standards in MSJC Distance Education Courses

Whereas, The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and California Government Code section 11135 all require that accessibility for persons with disabilities be provided; and

Whereas, Title V, Section 55200 states, “instruction provided as distance education is subject to the requirements that may be imposed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12100 et seq.) and section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 794d)” and therefore, requires all distance education content and delivery, including textbook generated materials, meet these requirements; and

Whereas, Distance Education courses are expected to provide learning opportunities for students regardless of time or space; and

Whereas, Faculty are primarily discipline experts and not necessarily trained in the technology to assess accessibility of course materials or equipped with the technological skills to convert instructor or textbook generated materials into accessible formats; and

Whereas, Mt. San Jacinto College’s Academic Senate recognizes that assistance and support for faculty to meet accessibility requirements is an institutional responsibility necessary to ensure that all students receive equal access to learning experiences at Mt. San Jacinto College;

Resolved, Mt. San Jacinto College’s Academic Senate reminds faculty and administrators of the institutional liabilities associated with the Americans with Disabilities Act when accessible materials are not built into face to face and distance education courses.

Resolved, Mt. San Jacinto College’s Academic Senate asserts that the college should provide faculty with accessibility experts to assess individual courses and instructor or textbook generated materials and to aid faculty with the conversion of inaccessible materials into legally required formats.

Adopted: April 11, 2017