

December 2, 2021

Lori Kletzer, Campus Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor
Office of the Chancellor

Herbert Lee, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Office of the Chancellor

Re: Emergency Remote Attendance

Dear Colleagues,

The Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) has reviewed and discussed recent inquiries regarding instructors making temporary provisions for students who are unable to return to campus. CEP members appreciate the care you have taken to help make sure that UC Santa Cruz students can progress in their educational goals during this unusual period.

The committee understands this current need, but members are concerned with this becoming an established and long-term practice. CEP is willing to allow this for the remaining 2021-22 academic year, but not beyond. We will not require that this information be collected and reported back to the Academic Senate.

The committee would also like to note that this practice in supporting a few students, cannot impact the rights of our instructors, especially Unit 18 Lecturers. We have heard, anecdotally, from Associate Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning Jody Greene and Online Education Director Michael Tassio, that they share this concern and that they are helping instructors who do not wish to be pressured to participate in Emergency Remote Attendance: We thank them for this work. CEP members wish to underscore how important it is that no one will be forced to teach in this multiple modality. We understand that Jody and Michael have no way of ensuring that students who are unable to use Emergency Remote Attendance will be provided with an alternative pathway, but we encourage instructors who choose not to allow a student to attend remotely to refer those students back to their departments or program directors.

Finally, we would like instructors who do opt for Emergency Remote Attendance to not allow "Zoom bloat," where students who are capable of attending in person begin to attend via Zoom. Students who are not on the small approved list should be removed from Zoom if they try to connect (CEP members are aware that there might be in-person students who need temporary access to Zoom because of exceptional circumstances).

We always welcome collaboration in supporting teaching and learning on our campus.

Sincerely,



Tracy Larrabee, Chair
Committee on Educational Policy

cc: David Brundage, Chair, Academic Senate
Matthew Mednick, Director, Academic Senate
Yat Li, Chair Committee on Courses of Instruction
Melissa Caldwell, Chair, Graduate Council
Jody Greene, Associate Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning
Michael Tassio, Director, Online Education