



October 11, 2021

Dr. Dinesh Pinisetty
Chair Academic Senate
California State University Maritime Academy
200 Maritime Academy Drive
Vallejo, California 94590

Subject: Senate Resolution 21-22/01 – Conducting Senate Business and Other Non-Instructional Meetings Virtually for Remainder of 2021

Dear Dr. Pinisetty,

I received Senate Resolution 21-22/01 as an email attachment to a message from Professor Matt Fairbanks, who seemed to be sharing the resolution with numerous campus leaders and asking for feedback. Some time later I learned that this attachment was in fact the final version of a Resolution that the Senate Executive Committee was sending to me for response. That was not clear in the original message.

I have several responses to the considerations being requested in this Resolution. First, I happily agree that if faculty senators can conduct their business successfully within a virtual format for the remainder of 2021, they are free to do so. To be clear, however, senators should *not* assume that a virtual format is workable when non-Senate employees are either included in an event/meeting or facilitating it. I am quite aware of the extra burden placed on some of our staff who must arrange for meetings in hybrid formats.

Along similar lines, faculty serving on committees that are chaired by non-Senate members should expect those meetings to occur in person, just as general operations of the academy are occurring in person throughout the fall. Although individual conveners may opt to provide a virtual option for these meetings, I will not direct them to do so. Rather, I leave it to the conveners themselves to decide which format works for their purposes. My reasoning on this point is similar to what I outlined above: I do not wish to create a new burden for staff who may struggle to run successful meetings either in an online or in a hybrid format.

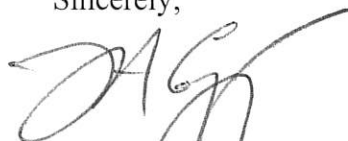
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY MARITIME ACADEMY

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I continue to place the safety of employees and cadets at the top of my priority list. For that reason, I remain grateful that we at Cal Maritime have a campus vaccination rate of 96%. As the experts at the CDC have shown, this vaccination rate together with an indoor masking policy and our more extensive practices for managing COVID indicate that meetings on campus are safe to attend.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Cropper
President

TAC/thc

cc: Dr. Lori Schroeder, Provost
Mr. Michael Martin, AVP Human Resources

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