FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION
FSR 2020-2021-05

I. Resolution Name:

IN SUPPORT OF KEEPING CLASSROOM DELIVERY OPTIONS TO INDIVIDUAL FACULTY WITH GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT FROM DEPARTMENTS, COLLEGES, AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

II. Stated Resolution:

WHEREAS the University of Central Oklahoma switched more than 1,400 in-person classes to an extended classroom model with both in-person and virtual seating for the 2020-2021 school year due to social distancing constraints recommended by the Centers for Disease Control because of the COVID-19 pandemic for the health and well-being of the campus community;

WHEREAS the University of Central Oklahoma faculty invested countless hours to learn the software, adjust their pedagogical techniques, and work with students to ensure that the new technologies work for everyone;

WHEREAS the University of Central Oklahoma has invested large amounts of both time and money from state and federal funds on the purchase, implementation, and training for this technology;

WHEREAS the University of Central Oklahoma has acknowledged that students have different needs and there is a demand for extended sections;

WHEREAS the University of Central Oklahoma has acknowledged that it wants to offer as many learning options as possible to accommodate our students’ preferences, learning styles, and comfort level with being on campus;

WHEREAS the University of Central Oklahoma faculty have discovered from empirical evidence that the extended classroom model works well for some instructors in specific colleges and subject areas;

WHEREAS the University of Central Oklahoma faculty have also discovered from empirical evidence that the extended classroom model does not work well for some instructors in specific colleges and subject areas;
WHEREAS every department and college has unique budgetary, personnel, facility, and equipment needs that differ from the others; and

WHEREAS every school or department has unique pedagogical challenges that may not be faced by other departments.

Be it RESOLVED that we, the Faculty Senate, support the effort by Chairs and Directors to work with their individual faculty to make these teaching model decisions at the instructor/department level and avoid unilateral university decisions about the model either for the positive or negative; and

Be it RESOLVED that we, the Faculty Senate, want instructors to have the academic freedom to be able to deliver content to students in a manner that is best suited for the students and subject with input from the department, school, and/or college leadership.

IT IS SO RESOLVED.

Recommended for Approval on 8 April 2020 by the
UCO Faculty Senate Research, Information Resources, & Technology Committee

Sam Ladwig, Chairperson
Kirsten Davis, Vice Chairperson
Caroline Bentley
Mariya Burdina
Linda Sealey
M. Nichole Warehime
Amanda Waters

JENNIFER BARBER JOHNSON
UCO Faculty Senate President

29 April 2021