

Regarding the \$20 million in Corona Virus Relief coming to MJC, specifically the \$15 million dedicated to areas impacted by the pandemic: the timing of these funds coincide well with changes we expect to see in “blended synchronous online learning” opportunities as we return to campus. It also coincides with the OEC’s effort to expand the definitions online learning to include new synchronous and hybrid options.

Allowing students to take the same course in person or remotely and at the same time (as happens now at many colleges as well as in MJC’s nursing program) would require a refresh of existing classroom technology. Based on conversations with other faculty and having taught in our classrooms myself as recently as 2019, I have the following suggestions:

- New equipment, including software, to allow for remote video during a live course where some of the students are physically present in the room and others are online.
- As much as possible, the equipment should be simple enough that an instructor could operate independently, without technical support.
- Software to allow the instructor to use his or her device wirelessly within the classroom, as already happens in Modesto City Schools.
- Video monitors should be large enough to be seen from the back of the room
- In some classrooms, particularly STEM and other lecture-heavy areas where the instructor uses the whiteboard extensively, tools such as “[Light Boards](#)” should be considered.
- Replace fixed teaching stations with something much smaller and mobile.
- Remove a significant portion of the classroom desks to allow for dynamic interaction between students (this will likely need to happen anyway, during the initial return to campus at least, for social distancing. There would not be an FTE loss if the number of students without desks were participating remotely.)
- Computer labs should be eliminated, except for those in both campus libraries. All other computer labs should be converted to classrooms. Laptop carts should be used instead, allowing each classroom to become a computer lab when needed. This will expand the space available to schedule classes.

Additional faculty who teach in these rooms should be involved in these discussions, as well as media staff such as Jeff Swank and Scotty Gonser, to make recommendations and guide decisions.

Thank you,
Mike