

AGENDA ITEM 10.a

Substantive Change Proposal for Distance Learning

Discussion:

The college was able to experiment with distance learning during the summer 2020 session and again for the fall 2020 semester due to a waiver announced by the U.S. Department of Education. The waiver stated that colleges who have not been approved through regular processes by their accrediting body to offer distance learning may do so to address student learning needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. This waiver is in effect through December 2020.

COM-FSM is in no position to begin offering all classes face-to-face in spring 2020 if the borders remain closed. A proposal for the substantive change request to offer distance learning could address this situation if submitted by mid-October in time for the last ACCJC substantive change meeting in November 2020. The following committees will have to endorse the proposal before the Board can vote: Curriculum Committee, Recruitment, Admissions, and Retention, Finance, Information and Technology, Students Success, and Executive Committee.