

Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI) Resolution

SRJC Academic Senate, April 30, 2025

The Association of California Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) has updated language and a new rubric for assessing the quality of online instruction as it relates to regular and substantive interaction (RSI)¹. In addition to its use as a tool for assessing online instruction by accreditation teams, the rubric is also a resource for instructors seeking to improve the student learning experience. Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) currently does not offer resources in support of the updated online learning RSI element of the standards. To encourage faculty to evaluate and improve their own RSI strategies in their online teaching, this resolution proposes to make a recommendation to the SRJC Distance Education (DE) office to provide such resources for use in faculty professional development. Voting “Yes” on the Consent Calendar indicates you are in favor of the resolution’s “Resolved” statement, below.

Resolution in Support of Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI) Resource Development

Whereas, RSI is both a federal law², a state law³, and an accreditation requirement⁴, reflecting changes made to federal regulations in 2021;

Whereas, a large body of research over many years shows that student engagement and interaction in online courses are key to student success, and RSI elements and techniques strengthen this student engagement;

Whereas, the ACCJC RSI rubric could be used as a foundation to provide additional faculty professional development resources regarding RSI at SRJC, particularly given that many California Community Colleges now offer dedicated resources and training to support RSI;

Whereas, to help ensure that Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) will be positively assessed by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) using these updated RSI standards and rubric;

Resolved, that the Academic Senate recommend that SRJC faculty use the ACCJC rubric for the assessment of their online courses to help ensure that these courses include RSI and recommend that the SRJC Distance Education office develop and offer faculty professional development resources in RSI to enhance student engagement in their online courses.

¹ [ACCJC Quality Continuum Rubric for Distance Education](#)

² [34 CFR Part 600](#) Federal Distance Education regulations

³ [5 CA ADC SS55204](#) State Distance Education Regulations

⁴ [ACCJC Policy on Distance Education and on Correspondence Education](#)