

District Online Committee Letter to Academic Senate re: OEI Online Course Exchange

May 8, 2019

To: SRJC Academic Senate, Eric Thompson, President
From: District Online Committee

The District Online Committee has been engaged in conversations throughout this academic year regarding the pros and cons of SRJC joining the OEI's Online Course Exchange. We have engaged the college community through visits to Academic Senate, the Department Chair Council, the Institutional Planning Council, and by holding two open meetings for college constituents to receive information and give input on this topic. After conducting these meetings and discussing the feedback in our committee, we believe that it is time for the college to move forward with this process and we recommend that SRJC request to join the Course Exchange at this time.

While we understand that there are compelling arguments both for and against joining the exchange; we are swayed by several advantages that we believe provide significant benefit to our SRJC community:

First, the major benefit to our students of taking courses online towards their SRJC degrees without needing to apply and access resources at other colleges,

Second, the importance of being part of the conversation and planning process as a member of the Exchange while the logistics of this system are still being solidified.

We do recognize, however, that the college will need to increase resources for online education if we are going to be a viable contributor to the Exchange. We put forth this recommendation with the caveat that the college consider this move while also looking at its own goals and resources related to online coursework.

We do not currently know when the application for the course exchange will be available or when it will be due, but we are aware that the complexity of the conversations here at SRJC may extend into the next school year. We recommend requesting an application as soon as possible in order not to miss the state deadlines, understanding that requesting an application does not commit us to this course of action.

--Members of the District Online Committee
Alice Hampton, Faculty Co-chair