



RESOLUTION
RETURN TO IN-PERSON ONLY MEETINGS

In 2020, the Academic Senate temporarily suspended the Standing Rules due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. This Standing Rule predetermined the modality for all Senate meetings, mandated in-person meetings, prohibited remote meetings for any full Senate, and limited remote meeting attendance of policy committees and all other Senate committees to only “rare” circumstances. At the same time, it placed the burden of any accommodation on the individual requesting it.

As they are currently written, the Senate’s Standing Rules provide little flexibility on the modality of its meetings. Further, by withholding decision-making about meeting modalities from the Senators who participate in them, the Standing Rules run counter to shared governance, where decision-making ought to be collaborative, consultative, and distributed.

Meeting modality impacts access and participation in complex ways, and each type will necessarily pose affordances and constraints. Rather than predetermining the modality of all its meetings into the indefinite future, the Senate would benefit from a more flexible, adaptable, and inclusive approach that gives Senators a voice and vote in deciding what meeting modality will best serve them in the unique circumstances of their times.

As we enter more fully into post-pandemic operations, we have an opportune moment to adopt the Senate’s approach to meeting modality to empower its current and future members better. In this spirit, we therefore recommend this resolution.

WHEREAS, the Academic Senate of Grossmont College has been providing teleconferencing according to AB 2449 guidelines since Spring 2023; and

WHEREAS, the use of teleconferencing by Senators has gradually declined, and

WHEREAS, teleconferencing creates an additional workload on the administrative assistant, who already has to take notes, manage time, support presenters, and

WHEREAS, when technology fails, finding an adequate room with HyFlex equipment is extremely difficult, and

WHEREAS, AB 2449 has a sunset date of January 2026,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Academic Senate of Grossmont College, with the exception of the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee, vote to only provide in-person meetings that do not necessitate a teleconferencing option.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Academic Senate can bring this decision back to a re-vote by any Senator wishing to consider reinstating teleconferencing up until January 2026.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Academic Senate of Grossmont College, this th day of Month 2024, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

I, Perla Lopez, President of the Academic Senate, certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly passed and adopted by said Academic Senate at the regularly called and conducted meeting held on said date.

Academic Senate President