

## **RESOLUTION REGARDING AIRLINE SEAT SELECTION FOR COLLEGE-SPONSORED TRAVEL**

**WHEREAS**, community college faculty and staff frequently travel with students for academic, instructional, competitive, professional, and co-curricular purposes, and such travel is an extension of the educational experience for which the college assumes responsibility; and

**WHEREAS**, most airlines now charge passengers separately for the selection of an assigned seat, including standard economy seats, and such charges may be required to ensure that travelers are assigned appropriate seats rather than being randomly assigned seats at check-in; and

**WHEREAS**, treating the purchase of a standard airline seat as an optional “seat upgrade” creates a distinction that does not accurately reflect the actual cost of air travel and may result in faculty and students being dispersed throughout an aircraft, thereby impairing supervision, communication, coordination, accessibility, and the educational value of college-sponsored travel and potentially resulting in the loss of instructional time;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the San Diego Mesa College Academic Senate requests that District recognize reasonable airline seat-selection fees for college-sponsored travel as a legitimate and necessary travel expense, rather than an optional seat upgrade, when the fee is required to obtain a standard assigned seat or to reasonably accommodate the needs of faculty traveling with students; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the San Diego Mesa College Academic Senate requests the District establish a travel policy permitting district funds to be used for reasonable seat-selection fees for faculty, staff, and students traveling together for college-sponsored activities, with the goal of maintaining appropriate faculty-student proximity, facilitating supervision and communication, and preserving instructional time, while distinguishing such necessary expenses from discretionary purchases of premium seating or other amenities.