



Academic Senate

July 21, 2020

To: Jennifer Brown, Vice Provost & Dean
Undergraduate Education

From: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair 
Riverside Division

Re: Establishment of Division of Undergraduate Education Proposal

Dear Jennifer:

I'm pleased to provide the full body of substantive feedback from reviewing Senate bodies regarding the proposal to establish a Division of Undergraduate Education. The consulted standing committees offer specific input in the attached documents, and I trust their thoughtful considerations will aid the development of the proposal.

The Executive Council of the Senate discussed the proposal at its most recent meeting of July 13, 2020. In addition to stressing specific points from the committee consultations, a member of EC noted the unusual institutional challenge created by UCR administration's decision to appoint a Dean to head a non-academic unit. The campus is now in the strange position of changing the status of this unit in a fundamental manner. Undergraduate education will need to become an academic unit if it is to initiate and administer undergraduate educational matters in the future. EC noted that if it becomes a division, Undergraduate Education must have a budget as well as a clear definition of its academic function. Council also noted that it seems there may be duplication of some institutional functions that should be addressed and resolved in the proposal. Further, as entry level writing and mathematics exams are under the purview of Undergraduate Education, it will be critical for the Committee on Preparatory Education to review the revised proposal in the next review round. The Senate Chair will ensure that Prep Ed is included in the next Senate review.

I trust this input will aid the revision of the proposal, which will have broad and long-lasting implications for the UCR campus.

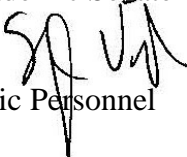
Peace
dylan



COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PERSONNEL

June 12, 2020

To: Dylan Rodriguez
Riverside Division Academic Senate

From: Sherryl Vint, Chair 
Committee on Academic Personnel

Re: Compendium Action: Establishment of Division of Undergraduate
Education

At its meeting on June 10, 2020, CAP reviewed the proposal to establish a Division of Undergraduate Education. CAP has no concerns about this move to consolidate several areas of the University that support undergraduate education and believes that it is an appropriate solution to the problem of Senate review of personnel actions for the two Associate Professors of Teaching who are tenured and attached to the University Writing Program. At the same time, however, the Committee believes that the current proposal does not yet provide sufficient detail regarding how these personnel actions will proceed in the future. The suggestion seems to be that ad hoc committees will be drawn from Senate faculty members who are attached to the writing program. CAP does not believe this will be sufficient. What is required is an established body within the Division who will regularly review these personnel actions from year to year, functioning as an analog of a home department, not an ad hoc committee whose membership shifts. CAP is concerned that it will be difficult to establish and follow consistent standards without such a review body.



COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

July 8, 2020

To: Dylan Rodríguez, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Stefano Vidussi, Chair
Committee on Educational Policy

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RE: Proposal to Establish Division of Undergraduate Education

The Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) reviewed the proposal to establish a Division of Undergraduate Education at their June 26, 2020 meeting and have several recommendations for additions to the proposal to provide more clarity.

The Committee noted that the proposal did not provide the difference between an “academic division” and a department or college or school. The Committee recommends that the proposal be updated to include this information and also document the hierarchy of an academic division compared to a school or college. The Committee also noted it was unclear what scholarly work would be required of faculty members of the division and how their qualifications for merit and promotion would be determined and recommends that this be addressed in the proposal. The Committee also recommends that the proposal be updated to include a statement about the current system in the Office of Undergraduate Education and how a division would enhance the Office of Undergraduate Education’s function, governance, and contribution to undergraduate life. The Committee believes that the proposal might also benefit from including how similar academic divisions operate at other UC Campuses.

The Committee noted concern regarding the University Writing program as it was unclear if it will become a department within the Division. The Committee recommends that the proposal be updated to address this concern and also note if additional departments are planned.

The Committee notes that the proposal would benefit from more information on the proposed executive committee, particularly, if the members will be elected as they are for the College/School Faculty Executive Committees and if so, who the members will be elected by. Additionally, the Committee requests that the proposal clarify the membership of the proposed executive committee to note if members will be representative of all Colleges and Schools or just the proposed new Division.



COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

June 15, 2020

To: Dylan Rodriguez
Riverside Division Academic Senate

From: Xuan Liu, Chair
Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Re: [Campus Review] Compendium Action: Establishment of Division of Undergraduate Education


The Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion reviewed the proposal to establishment of Division of Undergraduate Education at its June 4 meeting.

The Committee recommends the proposal be modified to include a diversity, equity, and inclusion plan to reflect the campus' commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in undergraduate education.



June 8, 2020

To: Dylan Rodríguez, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Randolph C. Head, Chair 
Committee on Courses

Re: Proposal to Establish a Division of Undergraduate Education

The Committee on Courses reviewed the proposal to establish a Division of Undergraduate Education at their June 4, 2020 meeting and are generally supportive of the proposal.

The Committee does recommend that the College and School Faculty Executive Committees review the proposal as the proposal will affect all colleges and schools with undergraduate academic programs.

When and if the proposal is approved, the Committee recommends that a sufficient lead time between the approval and implementation be established to allow for the Registrar to make adjustments in Banner, the Course Request System (CRS), and other systems that will require significant work by ITS. Additionally, consideration needs to be made to the changes that this approval will require in the Academic Catalog.

Lastly, the Committee recommends that the proposal be revised to include the proposed new subject codes for courses in the proposed Division and the definition of the routing of the courses for approval. This applies both to existing subject codes (UCDC), and proposed new subject codes for the University Writing Program and other programs.



Academic Senate

GRADUATE COUNCIL

July 6, 2020

To: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Jason Stajich, Chair
Graduate Council

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Re: Formalization of Division Status for Undergraduate Education

Graduate Council reviewed the proposal for the Formalization of Division Status for Undergraduate Education. The Council recognizes the work of the Office of Undergraduate Education has an 'academic angle' to it but would like to clarify some points before supporting the proposal.

The Council would like to seek clarification on whether the designation as a Division would duplicate some of the academic efforts that are currently being handled by individual departments. For example, it is mentioned that if the Division of Undergraduate Education is established, they can propose new courses such as WR 123 to replace ENGL 123. In this case, what would happen to ENGL 123 and the faculty who currently teach it? Would we end up with similar or even duplicate courses offered by different entities on campus, or would we need to replace and consolidate all the current courses and personnel involved with these courses (and other workshops, etc.) to the Division of Undergraduate Education? If the latter, there may be budgetary implications of such shifts across campus.


It was also unclear if consultation has occurred with various departments which will be impacted by this structural change. For example, was the English department consulted? The Council had strong reservations about this restructuring before impacted programs and departments are contacted and their input is included in the proposal.



PLANNING & BUDGET

June 9, 2020

To: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Harry Tom, Chair 
Committee on Planning and Budget

Re: Establishment of Division of Undergraduate Education

Planning & Budget (P&B) reviewed the proposal to establish a Division of Undergraduate Education at their June 9, 2020 meeting. P&B supports the strengthening of the unit, the goals of the organization, and the proposal as written. The committee did not find a large (if any) budgetary impact.