



CHAIR, ACADEMIC SENATE  
RIVERSIDE DIVISION  
UNIVERSITY OFFICE BUILDING, RM 225

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June 24, 2020

Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Chair, Academic Council  
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94607-5200

**RE: [Systemwide Review] Proposed Revised Policy: UC Seismic Safety**

Dear Kum-Kum,

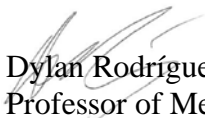
The UCR Senate is pleased to provide the attached package of standing committee feedback on this proposed revised presidential policy on seismic safety. While i will refrain from reiterating the contents of the attached memos, i should emphasize that the Executive Council discussion paid close attention to the insights of the Chair of the Committee on Faculty Welfare, Abhijit Ghosh (Associate Professor of Geophysics Earth & Planetary Sciences). Prof. Ghosh happens to be an internationally recognized scholarly expert on earthquakes, and Executive Council engaged him in a detailed discussion of the potentially disastrous shortcomings of the proposed revised policy.

Prof. Ghosh stressed that a major element is missing from the proposed revised policy: a planning and pedagogical protocol for addressing and guiding on-the-ground human responses to seismic events. Engaging students, staff, and faculty in training and preparation for earthquakes can be a relatively inexpensive undertaking, and Executive Council agrees with Prof. Ghosh that the UC system must prioritize such institutional work. Put simply, *What should we tell students/faculty/staff to do when the ground starts shaking?*

Executive Council also stresses Prof. Ghosh's reminder that the UCR campus is the closest of any in the UC system to the San Andreas fault. Further, according to the best earthquake research, our area is at least 12 years overdue for a major quake. Thus, it is not feasible for the proposed policy to allow 10 years between building assessments. In fact, this would be dangerous.

The UCR Division happily and urgently transmits this alarmed consultation to the UC Senate and UCOP and looks forward to a significant response.

Sincerely yours,

  
Dylan Rodríguez  
Professor of Media & Cultural Studies and Chair of the Riverside Division

CC: Michael Labriola, Assistant Director of the Academic Senate  
Hilary Baxter, Executive Director of the Academic Senate  
Cherysa Cortez, Executive Director of UCR Academic Senate Office

June 12, 2020

To: Dylan Rodriguez  
Riverside Division Academic Senate

From: Abhijit Ghosh, Chair  
Committee on Faculty Welfare

Re: Proposed Revised Policy on UC Seismic Safety

The Committee of Faculty Welfare (CFW) discussed the University of California Seismic Safety policy on May 12, 2020. The CFW welcomes the updates of the technical seismic engineering standards.

The updated policy, however, completely ignores the human component of seismic safety. During shaking due to an earthquake, even if a building remains standing, how people in that building react to the shaking can determine the human casualties. For example, if hundreds of students in a large lecture hall start running to exit the room during shaking, it may cause a stampede even though the structure remains undamaged. This document should be augmented by incorporating regular seismic awareness programs for all campuses and/or facilities. For example, just like a fire drill, and an annual earthquake drill can be made mandatory. This is particularly important given that we live truly in an earthquake country.

The policy indicates that facilities with Seismic Performance Rating (SPR) of V, VI, or VII can be occupied 10 more years (till December 31, 2030), with provisions for extension of that time period. Allowing students and employees to use known seismically weak and outrightly dangerous facilities seems too risky given that a magnitude ~8 earthquake in California is overdue. In other words, we are expecting a large damaging earthquake at any time now. The CFW understands that some time would be required to seismically retrofit the facilities or make alternative arrangements, but it recommends significantly expediting the process and reducing the time period (10 years) people are allowed to use facilities with SPR of V, VI, or VII.

Moving SPR to facility manual is fine, but the CFW recommends keeping it here as well in the form of an appendix for quick reference. In addition, adding a weblink to the facility manual in this document for easy access would be helpful.



**PLANNING & BUDGET**

May 19, 2020

To: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair  
Riverside Division

From: Harry Tom, Chair  
Committee on Planning and Budget

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry WK Tom".

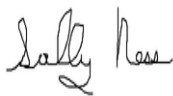
**Re: [Systemwide Review] Proposed Revised Policy: UC Seismic Safety**

Planning & Budget (P&B) reviewed the proposed revised policy on UC Seismic Safety at their May 19, 2020 meeting. P&B did not identify any financial impacts and was supportive of the revised policy.



June 11, 2020

To: Dylan Rodríguez, Chair  
Riverside Division

From: Sally Ness   
Chair, Committee on Physical Resources Planning

Re: Systemwide Review: Proposed Revised Policy: UC Seismic Safety

The Committee on Physical Resources Planning reviewed the Systemwide Review: Proposed Revised Policy: UC Seismic Safety at their June 11, 2020 meeting and is supportive of the revised policy and does not have any further comments.