UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE

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

Kenneth Barish
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November 1, 2025

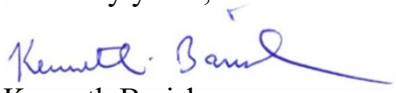
Ahmet Palazoglu, Chair, Academic Council
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607-5200

RE: Presidential Interim Policy for UC's Use of Online Program Management Companies

Dear Ahmet,

On October 27, 2025, the Riverside Academic Senate Executive Council discussed the *Presidential Interim Policy for UC's Use of Online Program Management Companies* along with comments received from divisional committees. Executive Council was generally supportive. However, feedback from local committees was mixed as a number of local committees sought additional information. Though those details are in the attached memos, essentially, feedback reveals that revisions are needed to provide essential context and establish clear policies regarding academic ownership, financial governance, external personnel review, and compliance with faculty evaluation standards.

Sincerely yours,



Kenneth Barish
Professor of Physics and Astronomy and Chair of the Riverside Division

CC: Monica Lin, Executive Director of the Academic Senate
Cherysa Cortez, Executive Director of UCR Academic Senate Office

UC RIVERSIDE Academic Senate

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PERSONNEL

October 17, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division Academic Senate

From: Shaun Bowler, Chair
Committee on Academic Personnel

Re: [Systemwide Review] Interim Policy: *Presidential Interim Policy for UC's Use of Online Program Management Companies*

At our meeting on October 1, 2025, the Committee on Academic Personnel (CAP) discussed the *Presidential Interim Policy for UC's Use of Online Program Management Companies*. CAP members felt that the university should retain and clearly state ownership and copyright of all university courses, including those delivered in partnership with an online program management company; and any courses offered through online program management companies should be integrated into the university's Canvas learning management system to ensure consistency, oversight, and access control. But the issues raised in the interim policy do not fall within the remit of the Committee on Academic Personnel.

UC RIVERSIDE

College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 17, 2025

TO: Ken Barish, Chair
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

FROM: Iván Aguirre, Interim Chair
CHASS Executive Committee

RE: Interim Policy: Presidential Interim Policy for UC's Use of Online Program Management Companies

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The CHASS Executive Committee reviewed the Interim Policy: Presidential Interim Policy for UC's Use of Online Program Management Companies. The committee is concerned about the language used regarding evaluation and prefers the policy states that it does not rely solely on student evaluations of teaching. The APM mandates that two different pieces of evidence of teaching should be reviewed at each merit and promotion review, while noting that this mandate is not recognized by all departments, as some may rely heavily on the number of evaluations and the comments of student evaluations to represent the two different pieces of evidence, which it should not. The committee recommends that the policy clarifies that other forms of evaluation, such as peer or external evaluations, be included in the evaluation process.

UC RIVERSIDE Academic Senate

PLANNING AND BUDGET

October 7, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: David Oglesby, Chair
Committee on Planning and Budget

Re: [Systemwide Review] Interim Policy: *Presidential Interim Policy for UC's Use of Online Program Management Companies*

The Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) reviewed the *Presidential Interim Policy for UC's Use of Online Program Management Companies*. CPB has the following questions and comments:

- Why do course evaluations for online program management (OPM)-supported courses not use the same (recently revised) course evaluations that all other UCR courses use?

- When for-profit OPMs hire faculty, the document requires that they are accompanied by "information stating that they have been reviewed and approved by the division/school offering the program." (Page 3)

    - What is the mechanism by which outside contract faculty are reviewed to be able to become approved or not approved?

    - Students need to be reassured that when they are getting a UCR degree, that UCR has a significant investment in that program.

- Are we looking at a potential future in which outside profit-making management is in competition with UC staff (unionized and local) and faculty? It is not clear what the financial and personnel implications of such a move would be.

School of Public Policy
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE
INTS 4133 | 900 University Ave
Riverside CA, 92521

TO: Ken Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

FR: Kurt Schwabe, Chair
Executive Committee, School of Public Policy

RE: **[Comments] Systemwide Review of Presidential Interim Policy for the University of California's Use of Online Program Management Companies**

Date: October 13, 2025

The Executive Committee of the School of Public Policy has reviewed the **Systemwide Review of Presidential Interim Policy for the University of California's Use of Online Program Management Companies.** We appreciate the effort and recommendations provided by the Online Program Management Workgroup in developing guidelines on issues surrounding instructor transparency, course evaluations and student feedback, and as well as prohibitions against incentive-based compensation for recruitment, admissions, or awarding financial aid. With that said, we have a few additional thoughts that we hope will be useful to consider.

First, there appears to be no current policy regarding the use of revenue sharing (or fee for service) arrangements as they relate to use of OPMs. It is fairly common for OPMs to retain 40-60 percent of student revenues (i.e., tuition)[1] when using a revenue sharing model, sometimes for the student's entire academic career. Thus, implementing OPMs could potentially have significant impacts for academic programs and colleges. Awareness, transparency, and monitoring of these sharing agreements would be useful, even for programs across the UC system to better understand what the "market" looks like.

Second, and related to the first point, there appears to be no current policy regarding the ability of students to receive university or campus-based financial aid (such as graduate assistantships) if they are recruited to online classes via OPMs. Given the revenue structure that is typical of OPMs, some universities do not allow students recruited by OPMs to receive any sort of university or campus-based financial aid. This structure could again potentially have significant impacts for academic programs and colleges.

Third, there appears to be no current policy regarding the ability of a student who has been recruited by an OPM into online courses to either take some amount of classes on campus or fully transfer to an on-campus version of an academic program (or vice versa), and what the revenue implications for such students would be to academic units.

[1] See, for example, page 10 of the following report: https://www.p3edu.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/P3%E2%80%A2EDU-100.pdf

Fourth, Section II of the policy explains that OPMs may be used for "recruitment, marketing, technical support and student support services." There could be increased guideline and monitoring of how OPM efforts in these areas intersect with current campus efforts. For instance, how would the use of OPMs interface with existing UC campus recruitment, marketing, technical support, and student support services, if at all? How would the UC ensure that current program information is provided by OPMs?

Fifth, Section III.A.3.a of the policy references the use of external instructors provided by OPM companies to deliver University of California courses. Although the interim policy does state that external instructors meet the same or equivalent academic/professional standards as either campus-employed faculty (for degree programs) or contracted instructors (for non-degree programs), the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost are listed as the enforcement mechanism for this policy, which appears to be a review of websites and marketing materials (see Section III.A.4). The vetting, appointment, and reappointment process for external instructors provided by OPMs is not currently mentioned in the policy. Consistent with shared governance, academic units should have input as to the use, vetting, appointment, and reappointment of OPM-provided instructors.

UC RIVERSIDE Academic Senate

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

October 3, 2025

To: Ken Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Annie Ditta, Chair
Committee on Educational Policy

Re: Presidential Interim Policy for UC's Use of Online Program Management Companies

The Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) reviewed the Presidential Interim Policy for UC's Use of Online Program Management Companies at their October 3, 2025 meeting. The Committee was not able to fully evaluate the policy as it did not provide context for information on how many online programs are present in the UC System and if this policy is only applicable for graduate level academic programs.

UC RIVERSIDE

Academic Senate

COMMITTEE ON COURSES

October 16, 2025

To: Ken Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Emma Stapely, Chair
Committee on Courses

Re: Presidential Interim Policy for UC's Use of Online Program Management Companies

The Committee on Courses reviewed the Presidential Policy for UC's use of online program management companies at their October 9, 2025 meeting and noted concern that the policy did not provide enough information for the Committee to evaluate the proposal. The Committee recommends that additional context for what programs utilize the companies would be helpful to allow them to evaluate the proposal.

UC RIVERSIDE | School of Education

10/15/2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate
and Cherysa Cortez, Executive Director of the UCR Academic Senate

From: Kinnari Atit, Ph.D., Faculty Chair of the School of Education Executive Committee

Subject: Comments from the SOE Executive Committee on the Presidential Interim Policy for UC's Use of Online Program Management Companies

The SOE Executive Committee reviewed the Presidential Interim Policy for UC's Use of Online Program Management Companies. Comments/feedback were solicited at our executive committee meeting and via email.

We have no comments on this document.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Sincerely,

Kinnari Atit
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee
School of Education
University of California, Riverside
Email: kinnari.atit@ucr.edu

UC RIVERSIDE | School of Business
A. GARY ANDERSON GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

School of Business
Anderson Hall
900 University Avenue
Riverside, CA 92521

October 10, 2025

To: Ken Barish, Chair
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

From: Jerayr Haleblian
Chair, School of Business Executive Committee

Re: (Consultation): *Policy on Online Programs*

Please let this memo serve as an official notification that the School of Business Executive Committee has no comments or concerns on the proposals noted above.

UC RIVERSIDE

Academic Senate

GRADUATE COUNCIL

October 16, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Viji Santhakumar, Chair
Graduate Council

RE: [Systemwide Review] (Interim Policy) Presidential Interim Policy for UC's Use of Online Program Management Companies

Graduate Council reviewed and discussed the Presidential Interim Policy for UC's Use of Online Program Management Companies at their October 16, 2025 meeting. Graduate Council had no concerns and approved of the interim policy.

UC RIVERSIDE Academic Senate

Committee on Information Technology

October 17, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: John Franchak, Chair
Committee on Information Technology

Re: 25-26. Presidential Interim Policy for UC's Use of Online Program Management Companies

The committee discussed the Interim policy and had no comments.

UC RIVERSIDE

Academic Senate

October 16, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Joseph Genereux, Chair
Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications

Re: 25-26. SR. Systemwide Review of Presidential Interim Policy for the University of California's Use of Online Program Management Companies

The committee reviewed the report and "had no comments as this time".

UC RIVERSIDE | College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
Executive Committee

October 24th, 2025

TO: Kenneth N. Barish, Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

FROM: Harry Tom, Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

SUBJECT: [Systemwide Review] (Interim Policy) Presidential Interim Policy for UC's Use of Online Program Management Companies

Prof. Barish,

The CNAS Faculty Executive Committee has reviewed the interim policy on use of Online Program Management companies at their October 7th meeting and has no objections.

Sincerely,

Harry Tom, Ph.D
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

UC RIVERSIDE | School of Medicine

September 24, 2025

TO: Ken Barish, PhD, Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

FROM: Adam Godzik, Ph.D., Chair, Faculty Executive Committee,
UCR School of Medicine

SUBJECT: **[Systemwide Review] Interim Policy: *Presidential Interim Policy for UC's Use of Online Program Management Companies***

Dear Ken,

The SOM Faculty Executive Committee has reviewed the Presidential Interim Policy for UC's Use of Online Program Management Companies.

The committee would like to state that the School of Medicine does not use the Online Program Management Companies. However, the committee agrees that the policy aims to ensure clarity on program quality, faculty involvement, and prevent reputational damage.

Yours sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
Adam Godzik
F3F7FC0ECB4E4AD...

Adam Godzik, Ph.D.
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee School of Medicine

UC RIVERSIDE Academic Senate

COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

October 17, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Manu Sridharan, Chair
Committee on Undergraduate Admissions

Re: **[Systemwide Review] (Interim Policy) Presidential Interim Policy for UC's Use of Online Program Management Companies**

The Committee on Undergraduate Admissions reviewed the Presidential Interim Policy for UC's Use of Online Program Management Companies at their meeting on October 17, 2025, and had no comments.

UC RIVERSIDE Academic Senate

COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

October 16, 2025

To: Ken Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Ivy Zhang, Chair
Committee on University Extension

Re: Presidential Interim Policy for UC's Use of Online Program Management Companies

The Committee on University Extension reviewed the Presidential Interim Policy for UC's Use of Online Program Management Companies at their October 14, 2025 meeting. The Committee had no concerns related to their charge of University Extension.