



January 17, 2019

To: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Sandra Kirtland Turner, Acting Chair, Executive Committee
College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

Re: Campus Review: Report Review: Provost's Taskforce for Hybrid and Online Education
Final Report

The CNAS Executive Committee discussed the Provost's Taskforce for Hybrid and Online Education Report at its November 20, 2018 meeting. The committee appreciated the goal of exploring the potential impacts, opportunities, and difficulties involved in the expansion of online and hybrid education at UCR. The committee agrees that UCR needs to be more deliberate about its approach to implementing online education but also agrees about the benefit of added flexibility for UCR students. The committee's discussion noted that online instruction brings challenges both for students and faculty. In particular, there was concern that it is difficult to measure the quality of instruction in an online course particularly because current evaluation tools are designed for in-class instruction. Members of the committee noted anecdotal evidence that instructors often receive different evaluations when teaching the same course both in-person and online (with the online versions receiving lower scores), although these observations are at odds with what is written in the report indicating evaluations that favor the online offerings. The committee agreed with survey results that general education classes should be a higher priority for offering online compared to upper division courses. The committee also noted that although there has been limited support available for developing and managing online instruction (aimed at individual faculty who have received ILTI grants), there appears to be no concrete technique being communicated to UCR faculty as to best practices for effectively developing and teaching online courses. There were additional questions regarding the potential intellectual property ownership issues arising from the preparation of online course materials. Finally, the committee questioned whether the current method of identifying an online course in the schedule of classes was adequate. The committee understands that students can only identify a course as online once they hover a cursor over the class location and/or meeting time.