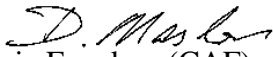


UCRIVERSIDE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA | **Academic Senate**
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM

May 21, 2020

To: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

From: Dmitri Maslov, Chair 
Committee on Academic Freedom (CAF)

Re: [Campus Review] Proposal to Extend COVID-19 Remote Instruction at UCR

The Committee on Academic Freedom considered the document " Proposal to Extend COVID-19 Remote Instruction at UCR" submitted for a campus review on May 12, 2020.

The committee is concerned about the lack of a clear plan for re-opening the campus which is evident from the statements such as "Throughout the 2020-21 academic year, we anticipate that these standards will fluctuate, at times allowing more courses to meet in physical classrooms and at other times requiring a return to remote-only instruction." The committee is also concerned that the main burden of dealing with the unpredictable future will be carried out by the front-line faculty who should be ready to teach each course remotely AND in-person, either both in parallel or being able to switch in the middle of a quarter. We would argue that we are either teaching Remotely or Physically, not both as the above statement would direct the faculty. This document does impinge upon not only our academic freedom but also our workload requirements.

It also needs to be clarified at what time during the quarter students can switch to remote instruction and whether or not they can switch back. Without clear guidelines an instructor would have to do a lot of extra work to accommodate such requests and keep track of the students.

The document has to indicate clearly that the choice of the teaching format is the exclusive prerogative of the faculty instructor. The document suggests that but still leaves the door open for the department Chair to replace a stubborn instructor with a more agreeable one.

The statement that "no instructor is required to teach in the physical classroom" has not been supported by a strong statement that a refusal to teach in person will not result in negative repercussions for merits, promotion etc. We are concerned that there might be such situations.