



PLANNING & BUDGET

May 28, 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: Proposal to Extend COVID-19 Remote Instruction at UCR

Planning & Budget (P&B) reviewed the Proposal to Extend COVID-19 Remote Instruction at UCR at their May 19, 2020 meeting and has the following comments:

- A) Not all classes especially upper division on-site labs (scientific and performance) can be given in meaningful online format so there must be an exception policy to the requirement to offer all on-site courses as remote-optional. If the lack of a remote-optional courses would impede graduation, departments could be encouraged to allow temporary substitution of on-site only courses with remote-optional offerings.
- B) Unprecedented flexibility of the Registrar's office in room allocations would be required, since social distancing would dictate medium-enrollment classes moved to large-enrollment classrooms and small-enrollment classes moved to medium-sized classrooms, etc., and with very short notice as demand would be uncertain until the last minute. Classroom swaps may be required during the first weeks of the course as on-site enrollment became certain.
- C) Because of budget cut scenarios, the offerings for both on-site and remote-optional that might require additional TA resources should be carefully weighed by departments since overall TA budgets would likely be flat or reduced compared to 2019-2020 levels.
- D) Generally, due to the cost of support (TA's, etc.), the only courses that make much sense to bring on-site are those where the pedagogy requires on-site equipment/lab safety/TA supervision, or on-site interaction space and that could ALSO be delivered with the required social distancing. Many courses with exceptional in-class interactions between students may still not be able to be given with proper social distancing, for example, even if you could split students between rooms, they might

need to communicate between rooms using remote technologies, so in the end, these courses might as well be fully remote.

- E) Large enrollment labs: it may be possible to offer such labs on site due to the possible limited number of students who would be willing to move to Riverside to take labs on-site even if a remote option were offered. In some sense this is using the “requirement” of a remote option to advantage. A possible advantage of many other classes being offered only remotely would be the flexibility in student scheduling, i.e., a student could take an on-site lab at a time slot when on-site lab space was available and possibly participate in a remote course at the same time-slot asynchronously. This would require flexibility in the Registrar’s office for enrollment.
- F) To facilitate flexibility in on-site course enrollments to optimize social distancing, an additional policy might include encouragement for flexibility on timeslots, i.e., instructors could approve simultaneous timeslots if one were willing to be asynchronous.

P&B recommends that the Registrar’s office consider ways and engage IT now to modify enrollment systems so students can specify onsite versus remotely taking a course. While it is not clear which courses would go onsite with remote versus remote only, the IT part should not be a bottleneck to this decision. The onsite offerings might have limited enrollments due to space, while the remote offerings might have limited enrollment based on something else like TA resources.