



School of Medicine
Division of Biomedical Sciences
Riverside, CA, 92521

May 27, 2020

To: Dylan Rodriquez, Ph.D., Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division
From: Declan McCole, Ph.D., Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, UCR School of Medicine
Subject: SOM FEC Response to Proposal to Extend COVID-19 Remote Instruction at UCR

Dear Dylan,

The SOM Executive Committee reviewed the **Proposal to Extend COVID-19 Remote Instruction at UCR** and has the following comments:

- Overall, the committee welcomes the plans outlined and the overall tone of the document which displays a compassionate outlook for students, faculty and staff who may be unable to, or uncomfortable with attending in-person classes for a variety of reasons. As discussed, there is an imperative in providing clarity to students who will have to make living arrangements for multiple quarters at a time.
- The committee encourages the approach towards flexibility in allowing small in-person classes. Such classes are needed for specific SOM on-campus instruction in Doctoring, Clinical Skills, Anatomical/Diagnostic Simulation, etc.
- Given that UCR was the only UC that was in effect 'shut-down' on the instruction of the local County Board of Public Health, will UCR seek assurances from the county that small in-person classes will be permitted – while following Federal physical distancing guidelines - should a second wave of COVID-19 arrive during the Fall/Winter Quarters?
- Does campus have any idea what the preference of students is with respect to the proposed incorporation of hybrid in-person/remote learning for select courses (<50 person classes) and full remote instruction for large undergraduate classes?
- Is there any guidance from UCOP regarding what appears to be the emergence of a two-tier approach to the new academic year where campuses with a large medical footprint are promising frequent COVID-19 testing (UCSD – 'Return to Learning' initiative) and more in-person classes vs. campuses such as UCR that do not have their own hospital/clinical operation on campus? Given the practical difficulties and huge financial burden of testing, if this is just a marketing exercise on behalf of certain campuses to increase enrollment at the expense of other UCs, how will UCOP guarantee that the integrity of the UC enrollment process is preserved across the UC and is UCR pressing this issue at UCOP level?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Declan F. McCole".

Declan F. McCole, Ph.D.
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee
School of Medicine