

April 2, 2021

TO: Jason Stajich, Chair
Riverside Division of the Senat

FROM: Lucille Chia, Chair *Lucille Chia*
CHASS Executive Committee

RE: UC Riverside Campus Safety Task Force Draft Report and Recommendations

The CHASS Executive Committee approved the overall thrust of the report to re-imagine and take an approach toward campus safety that is, as one EC member puts it “more inclusive as well as sensitive... that is cognizant of race as well as mental health issues.” In particular the EC endorsed the drive to integrate the UC Police Department with other groups such as those with professional expertise in dealing with mental health, sexual harassment, and drug- and alcohol-related problems.

The EC did wonder, on reading the report, what would be done to follow up the recommendations of the report, and some of the practical “next steps” were indeed outlined in Chancellor Wilcox’s email of March 22 to the UCR faculty and staff.

Several EC members noted and wanted to see, however, “more specific steps that are recommended to make the campus safer for students, staff and faculty.” As one EC member wrote, “As we plan to return to campus hopefully in Fall, we still face safety issues on campus after 5 PM when it gets dark since classes continue till 9 pm. The University Village as well as the area around Linden and Blaine streets where you have a good number of student housing, are still prime targets of hit and run, robberies as well as break ins.

“It is not clear who has jurisdiction in those areas, Riverside police or the city police?? I think they should both patrol the area. I do not feel safe walking home after 5 pm. I live near campus because I prefer to walk. Sometimes we have late classes and have no choice but walk home late. Even walking to the parking lot is not very safe since the campus remains very dark in certain spots.

So, I hope these are issues that the Task Force is also looking into as we move into in person teaching. I think a statistical table and map of crime on and near campus in the past 5 years should be added as an appendix to the report.”