




Academic Senate

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

October 15, 2020

To: Jason Stajich, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Stefano Vidussi, Chair 
Committee on Educational Policy

RE: Online Undergraduate Degree Taskforce Report

The Committee reviewed the Online Undergraduate Degree Taskforce Report at their October 2, 2020 meeting and had a robust discussion. First, while the report mentions a recent UCI based study that seems to show that online degrees do not disadvantage URM and other socioeconomic groups, there's well-established scholarly literature that points in the opposite direction, and while this situation may be evolving, scrutiny is necessary. Concern was noted on whether a student can receive a UC quality degree with a program that is offered all online (Options 2 and 3). The Committee recommended that if the System was to proceed with offering partly online undergraduate degree programs (Option 1) that regulations be set in place for students to be on campus for one half to three quarters of the portion of the degree. Concern was also noted with the potential reliance on adjunct faculty to instruct the courses for the online degree program, which would be potentially untenable for the UC System. The Committee recommended that rigorous guidelines be set for any proposed online undergraduate degrees to ensure that the programs are close to the same quality as on campus degree programs.