



Academic Senate

GRADUATE COUNCIL

October 29, 2020

To: Jason Stajich, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Amanda Lucia, Chair
Graduate Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amanda Lucia".

Re: Report Review: Online Undergraduate Degree Task Force Report

The Graduate Council discussed the Online Undergraduate Degree Task Force Report at their October 15, 2020 meeting. Members agreed there was no benefit to the third option. This option would require considerable substantive support and would not uphold the high caliber of a UC education. It would also create disparities between UC campuses (without student incentives to choose newer and more vulnerable campuses). The Council felt the second option was also philosophically very dangerous in that it has the potential to eviscerate entire disciplines whose campus contribution is invaluable but that do not readily translate into an online environment. Most importantly, if any of these options move forward, there must be: (1) investment in faculty development and faculty compensation, (2) campus infrastructure for online pedagogy and ongoing technical support, and (3) a robust plan for implementation - not just a summary of research. There are also persistent inequities surrounding access to internet, technology, etc. that need to be addressed and given thought.

The Council is cognizant of the fact that the UC must be forward thinking and suggests using a task force that can push us forward while maintaining UC quality; a hybrid model was preferable to most members.