



Academic Senate

GRADUATE COUNCIL

May 25, 2022

To: Jason Stajich, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Don Collins, Chair
Graduate Council

Re: [Campus Review] Proposal: Pre-Proposal for a University Honors College at UC Riverside

Graduate Council reviewed the Pre-Proposal for a University Honors College at UC Riverside at their May 19, 2022 meeting. It was unclear to the Council what exactly is being proposed here. In particular, what does “non-degree-granting” mean, and how does it relate to the students’ majors and the degrees they will earn? The Council had mixed feelings about this proposed college, as it appears to allocate additional resources to students who most likely are already going to perform well. Some Council members questioned having a two-track system for educating our students. It is not clear what will be different or change in regard to faculty involvement in teaching honors courses. It appears faculty will receive a stipend for teaching honors courses, but there is no justification as to why faculty should be compensated for teaching these courses. There may be difficulty obtaining buy-in for teaching these courses, as chairs already have a difficult time making teaching assignments – now there will be two deans pressuring for teaching assignments. The Council does not agree that remote teaching is always the most effective way to teach. The Council noted that the text on page 13 of the proposal problematically treats first-generation, lower income students as having zero assets, whereas such students have much knowledge and insights coming from their communities and histories; it would be important to shift from a “deficit” to an “asset” approach. There does not appear to be a substantive plan for diversity, equity, and inclusion issues in the proposal. There is a high level of optimism regarding securing funding. If alumni donations do not pan out, what is the plan for funding?