UC RIVERSIDE | School of Medicine

December 16, 2025

TO: Ken Barish, PhD, Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

FROM: Adam Godzik, Ph.D., Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, UCR School of Medicine

SUBJECT: **[Campus Review] (Proposed Policy) Response to Senate Feedback on the Proposed Policy for Archiving of Canvas Courses**

Dear Ken,

The SOM Faculty Executive Committee has again reviewed the Proposed Policy: Policy for Archiving Canvas Courses.

We appreciate the clearer rationale for the management of storage capacity stated in the letter from Mr. Gunkel and Mr. Edwards dated October 20, 2025. We have, however, to stress in the strongest terms that the proposed solution is unacceptable for the School of Medicine. If implemented as proposed, it could jeopardize the School of Medicine's accreditation by LCME. The curriculum in the School of Medicine is four years in duration and, unlike undergraduate studies, the most critical examinations, which cover material from all four years, occur at the end of the program. Therefore, students must be able to access their previous course materials for the entire duration of their medical education. Furthermore, there is a small cohort of students who take leave of absences which can extend their time in the school of medicine as long as **seven years**. They also must have access to past course materials.

In addition to educational needs, the School of Medicine is required by accreditation to provide access to faculty and students to the minutes of meetings from our Medical Education Committee and its subcommittees and teams. We use the Canvas learning management system to set up non-instructional course sites to enable access to students and faculty.

From a technical perspective, it is not clear if archiving past Canvas courses will cause broken links and subsequent sequelae (LTI & External tools like video platforms such as YuJa). When you archive or export a Canvas course, these external tool links often break or lose their

configuration. A faculty member restoring an old course to "check what was taught in 2021" may find empty assignments or error messages where the external tool used to be.
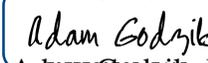
There is also a risk of losing evidence of what was taught for accreditation. As mentioned in an earlier correspondence, Year 4 students lose access to their Year 1 materials for board study purposes. There may also be issues for a student who needs to prove they met a specific level of competence in year 1. Depending on how IT exports, it can also lose student interactions, such as discussion board threads, that can become unreadable. Detailed feedback on assignments can be stripped out or separated into a hard-to-read CSV file.

Canvas is also used by the School of Medicine for some assessment and grading functions. The current status of Canvas is unsatisfactory, with frequent disruptions of access to older data, and this is likely to get worse with the proposed changes.

Hence, we ask for modification of the policy for professional programs that have significantly different uses for canvas in meeting its accreditation and student needs.

Yours sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Adam Godzik

Adam Godzik, Ph.D.
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee School of Medicine