November 27, 2018

To: Dylan Rodriguez  
   Riverside Division Academic Senate

From: Boris Maciejovsky, Chair  
   Committee on Diversity & Equal Opportunity

Re: Provost's Taskforce for Hybrid and Online Education Final Report

Members noted that the introduction of online courses fundamentally changes key aspects of instruction and the final report does not address these aspects. First, the report does not address a comprehensive study on learning outcomes. Specifically, it does not provide any information on how the study was conducted and why the recommendations were based off such a small number of students given the impact these changes would have on the entire student body. Second, before the proposal is implemented, CoDEO thinks that there would need to be a process to receive fair student evaluations as the current trend for online classes is that evaluations are markedly lower. Third, CoDEO recommends that further study be done to evaluate the quality of the courses and the effects on a diverse student population. Specifically, with online courses, the student-to-student interaction is largely removed which has the potential to take away some of the strengths of UCR in its capacity as a diverse university. The weakening of student-to-faculty interaction further heightens the issues related to convenience over actual learning outcome. Fourth, CoDEO is also concerned with the possibility that URM junior faculty would disproportionately be assigned to teach these courses rather than based on a selection process that is strictly volunteer basis. Overall, CoDEO requests that a more comprehensive report and final assessment be provided for consideration before the campus moves forward with making such a large investment. Multiple alternatives (e.g., changes in class scheduling) should also be analyzed and presented for consideration.