

SENATE RESOLUTION
[NUMBER - [SR-S21-005](#)]

PRIMARY AUTHOR(S)	Togrul Savalan (Senate Intern)
SECONDARY AUTHOR(S)	Vincent Rasso (Vice President of External Affairs) Lina Nguy (CNAS Senator) Abigail Nguyen (CNAS Senator) Akanksha Sancheti (CNAS Senator) Andrea Terrones (ASUCR Local Relations Director) Christopher Kent (CHASS Senator) Sean R. Nguyen (Personnel Director) Natalie Hernandez (Executive Vice President) Arshneel Kaur (Academic Affairs Commissioner) Mufida Assaf (CHASS Senator) Elysha Castillo (ASUCR Campus Organizing Director) Deidre Reyes (SPP, UCR Honors Scholar) Chloe Wells (Basic Needs Commissioner)
SPONSOR(S)	Melanie Grigorian (CHASS Senator)

TITLE	Campus Advocacy for Reopening with Equity (CARE) Act
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WHEREAS, the President of the University of California, Michael V. Drake, recently announced on Monday, January 11th that the [University of California plans for fall 2021 in-person instruction across its 10 campuses](#), citing specific plans for resumption of fall classes, including additional safety measures and starting dates, to be decided and announced by individual UC campuses as they coordinate with local public health agencies and continue to follow local and state health guidelines;

WHEREAS, the Executive Cabinet of ASUCR submitted a letter to the Chancellor and Interim Provost on Wednesday, January 20th regarding [Student Priorities for UC Riverside Campus Reopening](#), outlining key components and recommendations for Campus Leadership and the Instructional Continuity Working Group to consider for an ambitious Fall 2021 open-campus;

WHEREAS, the Chancellor initiated the COVID-19 and Campus-Return Working Groups in Spring of 2020 [to advise UC Riverside in several issue-areas](#) to maintain continuity of campus instruction, public health, testing, and more; to include all necessary safety protocols i.e temperature checks, cleaning, disinfecting and hand hygiene stations throughout campus.

WHEREAS, the Instructional Continuity Working Group, in accordance with the Office of the Chancellor and the Riverside County Department of Public Health, have [extended their](#)

[recommendations and implementation for UC Riverside to continue remote instruction from Spring 2020, Fall 2020, and Winter 2021 through to the Spring of 2021.](#)

WHEREAS, [the current situation of the COVID-19 pandemic has not improved across the Riverside community,](#) with the continuation of remote instruction for Spring 2021, ICU capacity in Riverside County reaching 0% on January 7th, and [California's stalled rollout of vaccinations statewide slowed by funding, procedural errors, and a massive population;](#)

WHEREAS, the [Intensive Care Unit \(ICU\) capacity across the Southern California region has consistently remained under the state of California's 15% threshold, and as of February 1st remained at just 9.1%.](#)

WHEREAS, the interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Thomas Smith sent an email campus-wide email on March 1st, 2021 detailing the plans for instructional continuity including strict adherence to health and safety standards, planning for 75-80% of courses in-person, and a commitment not to switch remote classes to in-person on short notice;

WHEREAS, there continues to be a [strong sense of uncertainty and struggle that the pandemic and remote instruction has imposed upon our student body,](#) with a wide range of negative impacts that disproportionately affect students with disabilities, students of color, student parents, asian, BIPOC and first-generation, low income students across all educational levels;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 vaccine supply has exceeded initial expectations, with President Joe Biden announcing [plans to increase his goal](#) from 100 million to 200 million vaccinations in his administration's first 100 days, the first goal being met in just over 50 days;

WHEREAS, the Associated Students has represented the interests of the undergraduate students across the UC Riverside campus community, and through this Resolution seeks to continue this advocacy towards an equitable and safe campus reopening in order to return to UCR better than when we left it;

WHEREAS, the Associated Students expects full accordance and collaboration with our campus administration in following the footsteps of other UC Campuses while handling safety procedures with full transparency to ensure the wellbeing of all students and staff.

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That The Associated Students of UC Riverside -

(1) Strongly supports the Executive Cabinet's Letter to the Chancellor and Provost on January 20, 2021 and each of its subsections encompassing Academic Continuity,

COVID Vaccination and Testing Accessibility, Student Health, Wellness and Basic Needs, and Addressing Concerns with Policing and Campus Safety,

- (2) ***Let it be further resolved,*** that this Resolution shall delegate duties across the Association to ensure to continued advocacy for student concerns in the push for a campus reopening that is inclusive and considerate of all Highlander experiences;
- (3) ***Let it be further resolved,*** that the President of the Association shall communicate weekly reports to the ASUCR Senate during ex-officio reports, the weekly ASUCR email, and work with the Marketing Director to post on the ASUCR Instagram, on updates from the Instructional/Academic Continuity Working, updates on ASUCR's sponsorship for grocery card distribution through The Well, updates on any feedback from other UC campuses or UCOP on reopening progress through meetings with the Council of Presidents and UC President Drake, and other necessary and important information regarding campus reopening starting May 1st through the end of his term;
- (4) ***Let it be further resolved,*** that the Vice President of Campus Internal Affairs of the Association shall instruct their Commissioner of Academic Affairs and the Academic Affairs Committee of ASUCR to advocate for the initiatives proposed in the Executive Cabinet's letter subsection titled Academic Continuity, including the extension of S/NC, grading leniency, and transitional return to in-person instruction to support students who cannot immediately return to campus in the fall;
- (5) ***Let it be further resolved,*** that the Vice President of External Affairs of the Association shall instruct their Director of Local Relations and Campus Organizing Director to advocate for the initiatives proposed in the Executive Cabinet's letter subsection titled COVID-19 Vaccine and Testing Accessibility, including outreach to the Assistant Vice Chancellor of Health, Counseling and Wellness and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs to secure frequent communications and commitments regarding campus vaccination efforts leading up to the fall, as well as following-up with ResLife and local housing efforts to support students in various housing, leases, contracts and eviction situations, and communicating with the Riverside County Department of Public Health on new updates regarding stages of reopening and state guidance;
- (6) ***Let it be further resolved,*** that the Executive Vice President of the Association shall designate Senators to organize community spaces, whether surveys, town halls, or other remote formats, throughout the Spring quarter in collaboration with their assigned ASUCR Committees and/or Costo Hall programs and other campus departments or student organizations, to foster an inclusive space for students across UC Riverside to share their experiences during the pandemic and inform Campus Leadership of essential needs and concerns that students have for returning to campus in-person, as well as their struggles facing an entire year of a pandemic and remote instruction;
- (7) ***Let It Be Further resolved,*** that the Vice President of Campus Internal Affairs shall instruct their Commissioner of Basic Needs to initiate dialogue with our campus partners at CAPS, the Well, Basic Needs, R'Pantry, CalFresh, and other essential groups, to

understand their needs in providing for our student body for an eventual campus reopening;

(8) *Let It Be Finally Resolved*, that the Associated Students of UCR shall advocate for a safe, responsible, and transparent campus reopening that is understanding of the impact that the pandemic has had on our student community, disproportionately marginalized students and students of color.

Cc: Luis Huerta, ASUCR President
Angelica Garcia, ASUCR Vice President of Campus Internal Affairs
Arshneel Kaur, Academic Affairs Commissioner
Chloe Wells, Basic Needs Commissioner
Vincent Rasso, ASUCR Vice President of External Affairs
Andrea Terrones, ASUCR Local Relations Director
Elysha Castillo, ASUCR Campus Organizing Director
Natalie Hernandez, ASUCR Executive Vice President
Kim Wilcox, Chancellor
Thomas Smith, Interim Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor
Jennifer Brown, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education
The Highlander Newspaper
UCR Health Center

SUBMITTED ON - *April 6th, 2021*

COMMITTEE APPROVED ON - *April 12th, 2021*

VOTE COUNT - *6-0-0*

SENATE APPROVED ON - *April 14th, 2021*

VOTE COUNT - *15-0-0*