

SENATE RESOLUTION
[NUMBER - [SR-F20-008](#)]

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SPONSOR(S)	
TITLE	Proposition to Make Live Participation and Attendance Non-Mandatory

WHEREAS, the University of California, Riverside has announced that it shall continue instruction through the same academic modifications and operations that have been placed for the fall quarter (Fall 2020) through the winter quarter (Winter 2021) in “[phase 2](#)” of its [COVID-19 recovery plan](#);

WHEREAS, the [COVID-19 recovery plan](#) includes that classes will continue to operate in remote formats through the winter quarter with an exception for classes that have been approved for in-person instruction;

WHEREAS, the [COVID-19](#) pandemic has forced many international students to return to their countries of origin due to citizenship, visa, and housing issues that prevent them from remaining or returning to live within [U.S. borders](#). This in turn impedes their ability to attend and participate in lectures;

WHEREAS, UC [students](#) living out of state and in different countries [experience difficulties](#) that not only pertain to accessing their lectures but also to accessing their course materials due to time

differences and VPN issues;

WHEREAS, the Associated Students of the University of California, [Berkeley](#), have passed a resolution, that addresses VPN accessibility issues as it serves as an inequitable element in student life

WHEREAS, at the University of California, Riverside, many classes/professors require active participation as part of the course requirements.

WHEREAS, student attendance, especially amidst these times, can be determined by many circumstances such as familial obligations, work obligations, mental and physical health, and disabilities, thereby hindering their ability to access their course materials at the [time](#) in which they are supposed to access them.

WHEREAS, the [United States Department of Education](#) has addressed Chronic Absenteeism that has been impacted by COVID-19 and are therefore considering “a one-year waiver to exclude this indicator from a State’s accountability system;”

WHEREAS, according to the North Carolina Health News announced that nearly [204,000 students](#) in special education programs struggle with virtual learning and fail to thrive in classes without proper support and accommodations.

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That The Associated Students of UC Riverside -

(1) Would like to have all professors adhere to the following solutions in order to promote and uphold academic equity and fairness:

- (a) Offer alternative ways to obtain live lecture participation credit offline. Examples include but are not limited to: Alternative assignments, extra credit opportunities, reflection papers, completing an assessment during office hours, asynchronous quizzing, etc.
- (b) If a timed examination is offered, allow students to **at least have a 24 hour window** to take the exam to accommodate students in different time zones and students with disabilities who already have extended testing times should have the one day window in addition to the extended time they have.

(2) *Let it Be Further Resolved* that the Associated Students of the University of California, Riverside (ASUCR) shall take the following steps:

- (a) ASUCR Senators, in collaboration with the ASUCR Academic Affairs Committee and Commissioner of Academic Affairs, shall reach out to the Academic Senate to present the resolution for the purpose of collaboration in the implementation of the proposed policy;
 - (b) ASUCR members will work with the International Student Committee to further discuss and implement this proposition.
 - (c) The ASUCR Senate will work with the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) to gain insight on best practices for talking to administrators to implement these changes so that they are also inclusive of students who have extended testing time (among other specific accommodations);
 - (d) The ASUCR Senate will get in contact with the Deans of each college at UCR as well as contact academic department chairs to discuss this policy further.
- (3) *Let It Be Finally Resolved* that ASUCR supports the aforementioned propositions of this resolution, given that remote instruction will remain the standard method of administering classes until it is safe to resume in-person instruction.

CC:

- 1. UCR Academic Senate
- 2. Dean of the College of Humanities, Art, and Social Sciences
- 3. Dean of the Marlan and Rosemary Bourns College of Engineering
- 4. Dean of the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
- 5. Dean of the School of Business
- 6. Dean of the School of Medicine
- 7. Dean of the School of Public Policy
- 8. Dean of the School of the Graduate School of Education

Executive Vice President

Natalie Hernandez

SUBMITTED ON - *November 21st, 2020*

COMMITTEE APPROVED ON - *November 30th, 2020*

VOTE COUNT - *4-0-0*

SENATE APPROVED ON - *12/2/2020*

VOTE COUNT - *17-0-0*