



September 22, 2024

****Joint Statement from UC Riverside College Democrats and
UC Riverside College Republicans on Revised Campus Policies****

At UC Riverside, we take pride in our shared democratic values, where freedom of speech and expression is a cornerstone of our academic environment. As representatives of the UC Riverside College Democrats and College Republicans, we come together to express our views over the recent revisions to several campus policies, specifically Policies 700-20, 700-50, and 700-70. While we recognize the intent behind these policies, we believe they potentially pose a risk to the open expression that is essential to campus life.

****Policy 700-20: Prohibiting Camping on University Property****

*We understand and respect the university's need to maintain safety, order, and the security of its property through this policy. However, we believe that there should be provisions to allow for peaceful, temporary encampments that serve as an important form of protest or expressive activity, particularly for student-led movements. By allowing for such activities with appropriate oversight and prior approval, the **university can strike a balance between maintaining campus safety and respecting the students' right to engage in meaningful, organized activism.***

****Policy 700-50: Revised Posting Policy for Students****

The imposition of new restrictions on the posting of flyers, banners, and other printed materials threatens to curtail students' ability to organize and communicate effectively. Restricting the size, number, and location of posters undermines the visibility of student-led movements and limits our ability to engage with fellow students. The ability to post freely on campus is fundamental to encouraging robust participation in campus events and discussions.

****Policy 700-70: Revisions to Time, Place, and Manner Regulations****

While we support the need to maintain order, the revisions in the Time, Place, and Manner policy potentially constrain demonstrations and assemblies by placing additional bureaucratic hurdles on students. While it is important to respect unauthorized spaces of free speech that don't inhibit university operations or instruction, requiring prior authorization and imposing time restrictions on expressive activities may limit organizing efforts that are vital to student activism and political engagement.

As two student political action organizations, representing a broad spectrum of views, we jointly believe that **our university campus should remain a vibrant space for the free exchange of ideas. The policies in their revised forms undermine that ideal.** We urge the university administration to reconsider these measures and engage in dialogue with the student body to find a balanced approach that upholds safety without compromising our rights to free expression and assembly.

We stand united in our commitment to ensuring that UC Riverside remains a place where students can freely engage, organize, and advocate for the issues that matter most to them.

Signed,

Rafael Barrientos Posada, President of UC Riverside College Republicans

Joseph Anastacio, President of UC Riverside College Democrats