



*Kum-Kum Bhavnani*  
Telephone: (510) 987-9303  
Email: [kum-kum.bhavnani@ucop.edu](mailto:kum-kum.bhavnani@ucop.edu)

*Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate  
Faculty Representative to the Regents  
University of California  
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor  
Oakland, California 94607-5200*

August 4, 2020

## **ACADEMIC SENATE DIVISION CHAIRS**

### **Re: ILTI Course Offerings During Summer and Fall**

Dear Colleagues,

The Academic Council has endorsed the attached letter from the University Committee on Educational Policy, discussed at the July 22<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting, alerting campuses to an Innovation Learning and Teaching Initiative (ILTI) proposal to make online courses developed by instructors at a given UC campus available to instructors at other UC campuses. UCEP believes that the proposal could be a good use of resources during the Covid-19 emergency.

Council agrees with UCEP, however, that great caution is needed if courses developed during the pandemic are ‘packaged’ such that instructors who have not developed a course could be asked to teach that course, on another campus. While UCEP, and Council, understand this offers a temporary approach during the present global health emergency, pursuing such a policy on a grand scale and over the long term could undermine educational quality. UC faculty are well known, and appreciated, for offering, as stated by UCEP, “high-quality and engaged instruction,” much of which also derives from the research of the faculty member. If ‘pre-packaged’ courses are taught, this “unique opportunity for students” will be lost. UCEP points to other issues related to this possibility, which echo Council’s concerns about copyright and course materials as stated in our July 1<sup>st</sup> letter to Vice Provost Carlson about the UC copyright policy

Council strongly supports UCEP’s suggestion that Divisions encourage a very close and measured look at to any proposed expansion of remote and online instruction, particularly as remote teaching resumes during August and Fall.

I request that Senate Division Chairs route this letter to their respective Committees on Educational Policy. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Warm wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kum-Kum Bhavnani".

Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Chair  
Academic Council

cc: ILTI Director Osmundson  
Senate Directors



UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY (UCEP)  
John Serences, Chair  
jserences@ucsd.edu

Assembly of the Academic Senate  
1111 Franklin Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94607-5200  
Phone: (510) 987-9466  
Fax: (510) 763-0309

July 11, 2020

**KUM-KUM BHAVNANI, CHAIR  
ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**RE: ILTI COURSE OFFERINGS DURING SUMMER AND FALL 2020**

Dear Kum-Kum,

During UCEP's June 1<sup>st</sup> videoconference, Director Osmundson described ILTI's efforts to support remote learning over the summer and for fall by offering a mix of courses that have already been approved for online delivery and courses that are currently being taught remotely because of the pandemic. The idea is that a faculty member could use the videos and other digitized assets developed by someone else and become the instructor of record for the course. This would spare departments the expense of having to create their own materials for a remote course. The faculty member who created the materials would consent to their being used by others while also retaining the intellectual property rights. The faculty member borrowing the course materials would be able to add their own videos and materials as needed.

While UCEP appreciates ILTI's efforts to support faculty during this challenging time, committee members are concerned about potential long-term implications of this model. If considered as anything but a temporary solution to an emergency situation, the approach of making "packaged" online courses available for use by other faculty could be viewed as a way to reduce costs at the expense of not providing students with the high-quality and engaged instruction that they expect from the UC. Indeed, the UC is distinguished by having a faculty who are actively involved in research and who can bring this knowledge to the classroom – teaching pre-packaged courses designed by other instructors may largely undermine this unique opportunity for students.

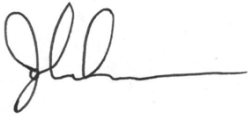
Another concern is that, if budget allocations are based on numbers of students in the classroom, student participation in remote courses could lead to campus administration keeping funds centrally rather than distributing them to schools and departments. Finally, members are concerned about the possibility that graduate students would be assigned to serve as the instructors of record on these online courses, undermining the importance of having department faculty teaching students.

While UCEP members agree that it is reasonable to take advantage of resources like the ILTI courses while remote instruction is required due to COVID-19, the committee does not support the long-term utilization

of or reliance on this model, and the committee would want to make sure that this is clear to everyone before proceeding with this approach. We are not opposed to online instruction, especially when done with adequate planning and support (as is typical of an ILTI sponsored online course). However, it should be clear that the rushed and largely unsupported remote educational experience that the UC has offered since Winter/Spring 2020 is not on par with the typical face-to-face experience that students have on campus. Indeed, the findings of the most recent UC Undergraduate Experience Survey indicate overall student dissatisfaction with remote classes they have been forced to take as a result of the pandemic.

UCEP requests that Academic Council notify the Divisional Senates to guard against the potential unintentional negative long-term consequences of short-term, crisis-driven solutions. UCEP appreciates the opportunity to comment on this matter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Serences', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Serences, Chair  
UCEP