Attendance

Present: Tom Smith, Ken Baerenklau, Julia McLean, John Warren, Samantha Jobelius-Morrison, Janice Henry, Nichi Yes, Christiane Weirauch, Jason Stajich, Shaun Bowler, Chris Lynch, Bracken Dailey, Emily Engelschall, Rebecca Hutchins, Josh Bright, Michelle Butler, Richard Edwards, Israel Fletes, Jamie Lopez, Brigham Willis, Daniel Ozer, Stefano Vidussi, Tiffany Kwok, Amanda Lucia, Robin Hungerford

Absent: William Wang, Luis Huerta, Elizabeth Morrison-Banks

Meeting Minutes

Announcements (Tom Smith)
The main goal of today’s meeting is to hear updates from each of the subcommittees.

Additional Agenda/Discussion Items (All)

Discussion Item: The Governor announced a plan to have the state reopened by June 15th. What changes will be made to UCR’s fall reopening plan?
The plans remain largely unchanged. We are tracking closely to what we had planned. Scheduling is not done yet but it looks likely we will land in our estimated range of 75-80% in-person.

Discussion Item: Are we anticipating any changes to the densities outlined in our fall plan?
No, we haven’t discussed any changes from what we had anticipated fall would be.

Discussion Item: Communication is still an issue and should be central to our thinking as we plan.
Suggestion: In addition to the longer webinars, consider using short media clips about best practices, how different people are experiencing life in the pandemic, or what campus will/does look like.

Subcommittee Updates

Exam Integrity Subcommittee (formerly In-Person Exam Subcommittee)
We reviewed some data to better understand if we have an academic integrity problem under COVID or if we were just hearing more anecdotes. It is clear we do have an issue under COVID. It is worth nothing that there there was a significant shift in where these academic integrity issues were happening and an increase in the average size of each incident.

Discussion:

• Do we know the status of these cases? No, not all cases have an outcome determined yet. Some may result in a finding that academic integrity was not breached.
• **Original suggestion was to offer in-person exams for online courses for security.** We have continually told students taking remote courses means NO required in-person participation which makes this an unlikely option.
  o There are several other approaches to remote exams that can maintain integrity.
  o Combining multiple solutions is a best practice. Lockdown browsers, authentic assessments, multiple data banks, etc.
  o XCITE is working to get all of this information out on best practices and doing so will very likely minimize anxiety about this issue.

• **Keep the students and situation in mind:** Not all of these academic integrity issues are true reflections of our students. Some may not even turn out to be academic dishonesty. Many students were under stress and their actions may speak more about the support we were (or were not) able to offer than it says about the medium of dual-mode or remote/online learning.

• **Academic Dishonesty is not a disease, it is a symptom.** Students who are struggling and are afraid to get kicked out or repeat a class may engage in dishonesty and last year was a hard year for a lot of students. We need to root out the deep causes.

**Best Practices for Remote Teaching & Glossary of Terms**

• Update to the Keep Teaching website coming May 2021, new section on Fall 2021 Teaching
• More best practice video communication for faculty to help with workload issues, keep them informed on the fall 2021 shift, canvas transition, and the upgraded general assignment rooms.
• Working on campus signage for campus including prohibited and encouraged behaviors
• XCITE is on a roadshow visiting over 50 departments.
• We also have 50 new TAs to hire as Instructional Continuity Consultants for Fall 2021
  o They will be a rapid response team for faculty and live-teaching
  o This announcement is going out through Grad Success on Monday, April 19
  o Made possible by CARES Act funding and will be a brand-new recruitment

**Classroom Technology for Dual Mode Instruction**

• Upgrading 106 general assignment classrooms. Hardware ordered and expected May/June.
• Still working to assess feasibility of finishing upgrades and training instructors by Sept. 23rd.
• Investigated the possibility of upgrading all 250 spaces (includes the departmental spaces) but we do not have the capacity/internal resources to take on the departmental spaces
• Instead, working to create standards and guidance for departments. They have gotten feedback on their document and will make it available next week.
• They’ve also met with campus partners to see if they would be our model space so that we could equip a single space and let other department chairs try out what we are recommending.
  o We are choosing one proof of concept. Meeting next week to review the choices.
• We’ll also do a video to get the word out broadly about department space recommendations.

**Discussion Point:** Put the technology in as many classrooms as possible, provide support, and encourage faculty to use it. Once they’ve had a chance to try it out, chances are they will be more open to offering.

**Question:** Who decides which courses are offered as dual-mode? Is it driven by student demand? Yes, it will likely be driven by student requests. In partnership with their department chair, instructors will decide whether they will offer a remote option.
**Question:** Can XCITE give a presentation to staff who need to answer faculty questions about Dual Mode? Or give us with resources to provide to our faculty?

Yes, there will be robust and significant resources and trainings available between June and October.

**Question:** We might not get everything done by September 23rd. How should we prioritize?

Large rooms first, those classes are more likely to have greater student demand for Dual Mode. Another option is to start with scaffolded classes, all scheduled in the same classroom. More information after May.

**Student Equity Issues**

- We need and will organize focus groups to hear concerns of students. Groups we are planning: Graduate students, first-time freshman, second-year/sophomores, and continuing students.
- We discussed a communication campaign that might be beyond the scope of this committee but we’d like to work more on how the campus can talk to and about particular groups.
- New Normal Concept: Let’s get a clear picture on what we expect our campus culture to be when folks start coming back. There are going to be different reasons for accommodations.
- Moving the dial from student/staff/faculty perspective: How do faculty understand what students are going through? How are things going with students? How do we practice empathy?
- Flexibility is needed for our students. If students need help, who do they go to besides faculty members? We need to ensure we have highly visible mechanisms of support.

**Spaces for on-campus students to attend remote classes**

- General assignment classes *might* have space leftover but we won’t know until the start of fall quarter. That will be too late and that space is typically released to student organizations.
- Backup plan was to use space like UCR libraries, HUB, or University Extension.
  - The HUB and the libraries are waiting to see what campus will look like.
  - University Extension has space on their second floor and will lease it to us. They are small rooms that might accommodate 10-15 people each. Con: This is off main campus.
  - UV has lounge spaces but they could be noisy and are also off main campus.
  - Investigated working outdoors but campus is not well-configured for outdoor hotspots and we would have a bit of work to do if we wanted this to be our solution.
- Student Focus Groups: Some students are really excited to be on campus. Most are nervous about density and the noise in common areas, and, of course, the possibility of contagion.
  - They said that if any space is used too densely they will avoid it.
  - Commuters will decide whether it is worth it to run all the way home or in some cases may ditch class if the logistics are too difficult.
- Other suggestions:
  - We have our Loan2Learn program. Expand it, we need more access to laptops.
  - If we can provide students noise cancelling headphones would be great.
  - WIFI hotspots.
  - Increase charging stations across campus since students will be on their laptops more.