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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

August 12, 2025

CHANCELLORS
ACADEMIC COUNCIL CHAIR STEVEN CHEUNG
LABORATORY DIRECTOR MICHAEL WITHERELL
ANR VICE PRESIDENT GLENDA HUMISTON

Re: Systemwide Review of Presidential Interim Policy for the University of California's Use of Online Program Management Companies

Dear Colleagues:

Enclosed for systemwide review is a Presidential Interim Policy for the University of California's Use of Online Program Management Companies. The interim policy was issued effective June 26, 2025.

The UC underwent an audit by the California State Auditor (CSA). In response to audit findings, the Office of the President established an Online Program Management (OPM) Work Group out of the Academic Planning Council (APC). Membership included Division of Continuing Education Deans from the UCLA and UC Irvine campuses, the Vice Chair of UCEP, the Vice Chair of UCAP, UC General Counsel, Associate Vice Provost and Director of Undergraduate Admissions, Executive Director of Strategic Sourcing in UC Procurement, Associate Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate Division at UC Berkeley, the Executive Director of UC Online, the Ethics and Compliance Coordinator, Executive Advisor for Academic Planning and Policy Development, and the Principal Policy Analyst, University-wide Academic Senate.

The group's charge was to draft systemwide policy to address CSA recommendations directed to UCOP around the use of OPMs. The Work Group successfully drafted interim policy that promotes practices that will mitigate the risks of using OPMs. Prior to issuance, the interim policy was approved by APC as well as by the Policy Advisory Committee.

This policy establishes guidelines for the University of California's partnerships with Online Program Management (OPM) companies to uphold academic integrity, transparency, and compliance with federal and accreditation standards. Of special note is the adoption of supplemental guidance of OPM policy on bundled services drafted by UC Legal. This information is included as a link in the policy document.

Systemwide Review

Systemwide review is a public review distributed to the Chancellors, the Chair of the Academic Council, the Director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and the Vice President of Agriculture and Natural Resources requesting that they inform the general University community, especially affected

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employees, about policy proposals. Systemwide review also includes a mandatory, 90-day full Senate review.

Employees should be afforded the opportunity to review and comment on the draft policy. Attached is a Model Communication which may be used to inform non-exclusively represented employees about these proposals. Systemwide Labor Relations at the Office of the President is responsible for informing the bargaining units representing union membership about policy proposals.

We would appreciate receiving your comments no later than **November 12, 2025**. Please submit your comments and questions to Carmen Corona at carmen.corona@ucop.edu.

Best wishes,



Katherine S. Newman
UC System Provost and
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

UC Berkeley Chancellor's Distinguished Professor
of Sociology & Public Policy

Enclosures:

- 1) Presidential Interim Policy for the University of California's Use of Online Program Management Companies
- 2) Model Communication
- 3) June 26, 2025, Interim Policy Issuance Letter

Cc: President Milliken

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