

Report on CUCFA Meeting, June 17, 2020

The Council of UC Faculty Associations met last week to determine priorities in light of the cascading crises, and new-breaking hopes, of our time. There was general consensus that CUCFA's primary aim continues to be to [reclaim](#) the California Master Plan for Higher Education, with its [promise](#) of full access *and* world-class academic excellence, feasible through public reinvestment. The Reclaim CA Higher Education Coalition has modelled what [tuition-free and debt-free](#) college would look like, and CUCFA members asked how this vision might intersect with the de-carceral demands of the Black Lives Matter uprising and the growing national conversation on debt and tuition-free education. Reclaiming the Master Plan in the face of decades of neoliberal austerity has become a long-term struggle, and CUCFA has tasked itself with re-energizing this struggle by connecting it to the political will of the recent Black Lives Matter uprisings and to the COVID pandemic's exposure of the deadly cost of disinvesting in public health and welfare.

This confluence of issues speaks directly to the changing 'public' since 1960. There were [no halcyon days in which public education was actually affordable and deracialized](#). Thus, CUCFA's members discussed the need to connect the defense of the Master Plan to the critique of racial capitalism in the University of California system and to current questions of defunding/disarming campus police and the larger mass incarceration apparatus. There was a view that broaching these issues might help transform the composition of the board by drawing in scholars of color and scholar-activists with expertise in antiracist and anticarceral work. Two subgroups have been formed in recognition of these intersecting concerns. One focuses on 'academics' – on bringing the confluence of COVID-19 and structural racism to the curricular, remote-learning, and outsourcing issues facing faculty as campuses re-open. The second subgroup focuses on pressing forward and "restructuring" the Reclaim project, not least by clarifying its anti-racist content.

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