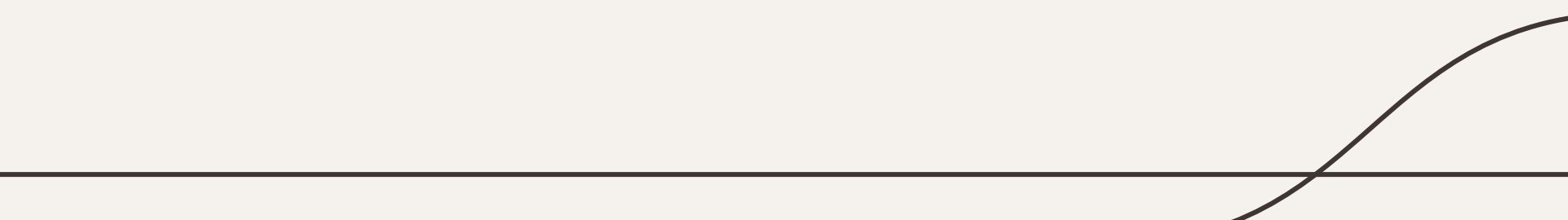




# **Case Study: Return to Campus/Covid-19 Student Experience**

Student Voice Committee 2021-2022



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# Importance of the Case Study

- Allows for students with the platform to express themselves
  - Constructs a compelling representation of students' experiences at UCR
  - Builds a network of support with student body
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# Case Study Participants

- Kate Neamsapaya: 4th year; Public Policy Major; Off-campus Housing
  - Erik Hakopian: 3rd year; Neuroscience Major; Off-campus Housing/Commuter
  - Isette Claproth: 4th year; Business Major, Off-campus Housing
  - James Barragan: 1st year; Aerospace Engineering Major; On-campus Housing
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# What is your overall opinion on the campus reopening?

- **Kate Neamsapaya:** “They’re doing good.”
  - **Isette Claproth:** She thinks it’s a good thing if the right precautions are taken.
  - **James Barragan:** “Great step forward from online learning. It gives opportunities for students to *learn efficiently* where they can be comfortable talking and engaging during lectures.”
  - **Erik Hakopian: Likes:** Connecting with people, social aspect of being in-person, learning better about subjects with people, motivated to be in school. **Dislikes:** Online classes opinion is that education is behind, rewatching lectures to understand, adjusting from online recordings (paying attention and taking notes) to in-person lecture, *wants recorded lectures available*.
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# How do you feel about UCR's safety protocols relating to Covid-19?

- **Kate Neamsapaya:** She agrees with the protocols, but she wishes there was *more communication* between professors and students. There was a Covid-19 case in one of her classes, but her professor didn't reach out with any additional information.
  - **Isette Claproth:** She thinks they are good, the daily wellness checks and having covid tests on campus.
  - **James Barragan:** Really good, especially indoors and outdoors. Feels *good that people wear masks* as it encourages others to wear masks. He feels the university is good at responding quickly to covid 19 cases. *He feels safe* about the on-site covid testing providing.
  - **Erik Hakopian:** Vaccination statistics are comforting to know including the wellness text. Safety-wise: Doing a great job.
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# How have you felt while adjusting to being on campus?

- **Kate Neamsapaya:** She mentioned that social distancing on campus has been different, since she was used to seeing the campus empty during the pandemic.
  - **Isette Claproth:** She thinks it's nice having the option of remote learning. For those who don't it is difficult for commuters and those waiting of testing results.
  - **James Barragan:** He's felt excited going on to campus. It's a different feeling being on campus. There are many activities for students to interact with, which if good for people who are trying to "break out of their shell and discover who they are"
  - **Erik Hakopian:** N/A (not on campus)
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# How has remote learning during Covid-19 impacted your overall health (mental, physical, etc.)?

- **Kate:** She struggled with time management and found it difficult to make time to go outside.
  - **Erik Hakopian:** Mental: Focused more during remote learning. Hard to balance between relatives who had COVID-19 during exams.
    - Physical: Being in-school for 10 hours a day online, neck problems.
  - **Isette Claproth:** In her opinion her grades suffered and so did her mental health.
  - **James Barragan:** It's been severely impacted. Mentally it has been hard to deal with. Learning online requires a workspace invading your places to relax , which is stressful. For him, it lead to depression and he struggled with time management. It was difficult to connect with family as a result. Physically he felt trapped at home. His physical health and body image became distorted and hurt his self-esteem. It destroyed his values mentally and physically.
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# How has the return to in-person learning impacted your overall health (mental, physical, etc.)?

- **Kate:** It has helped her overall health. She enjoys going outside, walking, and interacting with other students on campus.
  - **Isette Claproth:** She thinks it has been nice being on campus and seeing people. She is off campus now so it is not as bad.
  - **James Barragan:** It improved his mental health exponentially. He's had more chances to interact with others, especially in his classes. He's enjoyed getting to know his professors, so the connection is more human. It made him feel mentally and physically active. He's been more engaged in his classes. It boosted his confidence and mental stability in his classes.
  - **Erik Hakopian:** N/A (not on campus)
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# Are you enrolled in any in-person classes? If yes, how have you felt about being back in the classroom?

- **Kate Neamsapaya:** She has many in-person classes and only feels uncomfortable during one class. The class is held in Olmstead and the room's small size makes it difficult to social distance.
  - **Isette Claproth:** All her classes are in person. She enjoys being in-person and "learns better that way". Her professors offer the remote options which she thinks is a good thing.
  - **James Barragan:** He's enrolled in 2 in-person classes and one online class. Being engaged in person in his math and english class really helps. There are more active discussions. It has been an overwhelmingly good experience. It's comforting to see when one person engages, people respond, and the class feels connected.
  - **Erik Hakopian:** N/A (not on campus)
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## Do you believe that your in-person professors would be accommodating if you felt the need to stay home due to mild symptoms?

- **Kate Neamsapaya:** All of her professors have been accommodating, but she feels uncomfortable that attendance is required for the class with a small room.
  - **Isette Claproth:** Yes, but she has one professor who is more tired of Covid-19, so they are a little less understanding. He doesn't care to hear about excuses.
  - **James Barragan:** Yes, more professors are becoming understanding. If someone is feeling sick, they work with the student. The workload may be more intense for them, but they still have a chance to excel in the class.
  - **Erik Hakopian:** Yes. However, if infected by COVID-19, UCR hasn't had much clarification on what to do with those steps.
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# Have your professors been accommodating during remote learning?

- **Kate Neamsapaya:** Her professors were accommodating and provided recorded lectures and their notes.
  - **Isette Claproth:** No, her professors made it a lot harder. Many of her professors weren't understanding and didn't care.
  - **James Barragan:** Hybrid schedules were more focused on their in person classes. Online zoom meetings are neglected and the professor only focuses on in person classes.
  - **Erik Hakopian:** It's his first semester at UCR and the experience overall has been amazing (From PCC) both amazing and responsive with emails
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# Have your professors been accommodating during the return to campus?

- **Kate Neamsapaya:** Yes, many of them don't require participation. However, she would prefer if they provided recorded lectures and lecture notes.
  - **Erik Hakopian:** Not on campus
  - **Isette Claproth:** "Yes, many of her professors are in-person, but many are ok with students doing class on-line. They still require attendance, but they do so online. Her professors have been more lenient with make-up assignments."
  - **James Barragan:** "Yes, they understand that it's a huge leap in environment. His english professor is very kind and caring to those willing to express themselves differently. In the pandemic people were closed off, but they are more accommodating in person. His professors allow people to step outside and take off their masks if needed. Others allow students to social distance if they feel uncomfortable and students are allowed to express discomfort."
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## Are you involved in any extracurricular activities, such as clubs or sports? If yes, how have they adjusted to the return to campus?

- **Kate Neamsapaya:** She works at the SRC as a governing board and they have a hybrid approach for their meetings.
  - **Erik Hakopian:** Working at Caltech at FSAE club: formula 1 racing cars, basketball, future join: armenian club & Armenian clubs: only said would resume (no further information posted), Caltech: can still work online/virtually, some aspects requires to be in person (can come, but don't have to)
  - **Isette Claproth:** Yes, they've done good, it's been disorganized. It's been difficult to accommodate from zoom to in-person.
  - **James Barragan:** In high school, he was in varsity tennis, when schools returned to campus, they emphasized social distance and wearing masks. There were also covid testing and temperature checks. There was a lot of caution. Joining teams during covid was hard. He goes to the SRC often and it's a good experience, but sometimes wearing a mask during exercising is difficult.
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# General Consensus

- **Most students are happy to be back on campus and feel good about the safety protocols in place.**
  - **All students reported feeling negatively affected by remote learning.**
  - **There has been varied experiences with the accommodations provided by professors during remote learning.**
  - **Most students report that their professors have been accommodating during the return to campus.**
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**Comments or Questions?**

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