

UC Berkeley



Academic Senate Chair - Berkeley Division

Greetings Colleagues,

This message was going to start with a thank you for everything you have done this year, but we have one more major disruption to deal with as the semester winds down. I hope you all received the news this afternoon that bCourses is down due to a cybersecurity attack on its provider, Instructure. At the moment, we and our students are unable to access bCourses for any material or information. Given that we are currently in RRR week and finals week is fast approaching, the impact of this disruption is likely to be severe. Even if the recovery is swift, the stress and anxiety our students are already experiencing are profound.

The Academic Senate is actively considering contingencies and we will be closely monitoring the status of the system and the impact of the attack on our core academic systems. In the meantime, I would encourage you to do everything you can to maintain information flow and communication with your students. This likely means returning to email communications (course list can be retrieved from CalCentral) and sharing information either by email or in a dedicated shared drive. Many of the associated platforms (gradescope, kaltura) may be able to be accessed without going through bCourses, but you and your instructional team should test these options for students. [Here](#) is a link to the RTL website with more information.

I understand that this falls at the absolute worst time, for both instructors and students, and I acknowledge that we will have to operate with considerable uncertainty at a particularly crucial time as we head into finals week. The Academic Senate will work closely with the Campus Administration to provide updates as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Mark Stacey

Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate

This message was sent to all members of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate.

