



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

—
Ahmet Palazoglu
Chair, Assembly of the
Academic Senate
Faculty Representative,
UC Board of Regents
Academic Senate

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December 19, 2025

Nathan Brostrom
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, UC Finance

Re: Systemwide Review of Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear CFO Brostrom:

As requested, I distributed for systemwide Academic Senate review the proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. All 10 Academic Senate divisions and three systemwide Senate committees ([UCOP](#), [UCFW](#), and [UCPB](#)) submitted comments. These were discussed at the Academic Council's December 17, 2025 meeting, and the compiled feedback is attached for your reference.

This annual review of the policy generated broad support for the intent of the revisions and recognition that many updates reflect current practices. At the same time, reviewers also expressed several concerns concerning cost and feasibility, clarity and consistency, accountability, equity, and flexibility in implementation.

Support for Goals with Concerns About Costs

Many divisions expressed support for the revisions, particularly the removal of centrally procured biogas, strengthened green building requirements, updated transportation provisions, and the integration of UC Health content into topical sections. Reviewers generally supported the policy's continued movement away from indirect compliance mechanisms such as biogas and long-term reliance on carbon offsets and toward a greater emphasis on direct emissions reductions.

At the same time, reviewers emphasized that compliance with the expanded requirements may carry substantial capital, operational, and administrative costs, particularly for campuses with limited resources or extensive deferred maintenance. These concerns were raised amid heightened federal and state budget uncertainty. Several reviewers asked UCOP to conduct cost analyses or provide transition funding, particularly for requirements such as:

- LEED Gold/Platinum certification for new buildings
- Monitoring-based commissioning and permanent metering infrastructure (i.e., continuous tracking of building energy performance rather than one-time post-construction commissioning)
- Clean energy transitions and decarbonization planning timelines
- Restrictions on natural gas infrastructure investments requiring Regents' approval

Many reviewers urged adoption of a cost-effectiveness framework to prevent sustainability mandates from diverting resources from basic maintenance or core operations. Several also emphasized that campuses differ widely in resources, infrastructure conditions, and local energy contexts, and suggested that systemwide rather than campus-specific emissions benchmarks could help mitigate disproportionate impacts.

Reviewers encourage UCOP to request targeted legislative line-item funding to support high-cost sustainability projects. Several noted that without dedicated funding, campuses will face difficult trade-offs between sustainability investments and other critical priorities. Cost analyses will help inform decisions about budget allocations.

Accountability and Measurable Targets

Multiple divisions expressed concern that the removal of specific single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) reduction targets weakens accountability. While reviewers welcomed the new annual commuter survey requirement, they stressed that data collection should lead to demonstrable action and transparent progress tracking. More broadly, many cautioned that the policy relies heavily on aspirational verbs (e.g., “prioritize,” “foster,” “pursue”) without specifying mechanisms for accountability or consequences for non-performance.

Reviewers also noted that prior Senate recommendations regarding fossil fuel use and carbon offsets remain unaddressed. They emphasized the slow pace of progress toward reducing scope 1 emissions, urged more aggressive timelines for direct decarbonization, and reiterated concerns about over-reliance on carbon offsets. While the policy continues to reference offsets, several committees reiterated longstanding Senate concerns about their use as a core element of UC’s long-term sustainability strategy and emphasized the importance of prioritizing direct emissions reductions wherever feasible.

Reviewers further highlighted the need for stronger verification standards, greater transparency regarding the availability and cost-effectiveness of high-quality offsets, and clearer planning for alternative infrastructure as investments in natural gas systems become more constrained. One division cautioned that provisions allowing exceptions for new fossil fuel infrastructure may be perceived as inconsistent with UC’s stated goal of

achieving a fossil-free campus and could undermine confidence in the policy's decarbonization trajectory.

Requests for Clearer Policy Language

Reviewers identified several areas where greater clarity or consistency would improve implementation, including:

- Ambiguity in terms such as "fuel," "standardized data format," "Indirect Potable Reuse," and plant-based food percentage metrics
- Unclear applicability of certain provisions to campuses, health locations, or both
- Insufficiently defined targets, timelines, and reporting requirements, including provisions allowing updates to greenhouse gas reduction targets without specified intervals or reporting expectations, and transportation provisions emphasizing programmatic effort without defined outcomes
- Inconsistent capitalization or use of the term "Locations"
- Cross-referencing errors caused by renumbering sections

Transportation

Reviewers supported the updated transportation provisions, including the removal of outdated SOV targets, clarified electric vehicle regulations, and continued emphasis on commute-reduction programs. They also stressed that sustainability goals should account for differential access to zero-emission vehicles, particularly for students and lower-income populations, and encouraged greater emphasis on ZEV carshare programs and enhanced public transportation as alternatives to individual vehicle ownership. Several noted that additional incentives may be necessary to encourage sustainable commuting and urged UCOP to ensure transportation requirements remain practical and equitable across locations.

Other Comments and Concerns

- Several reviewers noted that the policy does not explicitly address the significant and growing energy demands of AI and cloud-based high-performance computing.
- Reviewers raised concerns about risks to research integrity during power shortages, the need for clear guidance on emergency energy reserves, and potential conflicts between sustainability mandates and essential research or clinical operations.
- Reviewers observed that the policy focuses heavily on new construction but pays less attention to older buildings that pose health, safety, or environmental quality risks. They emphasized the importance of aligning sustainability goals with indoor air quality, hazardous materials remediation, and affordability of health services.
- Most reviewers supported embedding UC Health sustainability requirements into the topical sections, but some cautioned that eliminating the standalone section may reduce visibility of health-

specific needs and responsibilities.

- Many reviewers stressed that campuses vary widely in climate, growth patterns, energy markets, and transportation landscapes. They encouraged UCOP to allow flexibility in how campuses meet shared goals and to recognize differences in local conditions and infrastructural constraints.

In summary, Senate reviewers appreciate the policy's continued movement toward direct decarbonization, improved organization, and clearer applicability across campus and health locations. Taken together, the comments reflect an underlying tension between calls for more rapid and unequivocal decarbonization, and concerns about cost and feasibility in the current fiscal environment. The Senate encourages UCOP to incorporate cost-effectiveness analyses, strengthen policy clarity, ensure equitable implementation, and preserve measurable progress tracking in future revisions.

Sincerely,



Ahmet Palazoglu
Chair, Academic Council

cc: Academic Council
Chief Sustainability Officer St.Clair
Senate Division Executive Directors
Senate Executive Director Lin



December 5, 2025

AHMET PALAZOGLU
Systemwide Academic Senate/Council Chair

Subject: Berkeley Division – Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Chair Palazoglu,

On December 1, 2025, the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate's Divisional Council (DIVCO) endorsed the committee comments from the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA) on the *Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices* under the Consent Calendar. While noting the budgetary implications of the policy, CAPRA expressed support for the new revisions provided here, but noted that the proposed revisions do not address the DIVCO recommendations from 2021 and 2022, which I have enclosed.

I strongly encourage you to read the enclosed committee comments.

Sincerely,

Mark Stacey
Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate

Enclosures

cc: Thomas Philip, Vice Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate
Monica Lin, Executive Director, UC Systemwide Academic Senate
Jocelyn Surla Banaria, Executive Director, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate
Jason Wittenberg, Chair, Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation
Milo Knight, Senate Analyst, Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation



November 24, 2025

PROFESSOR MARK STACEY
Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate

*Re: CAPRA comments on proposed 2025 revisions to the Presidential Policy
on Sustainable Practices*

The Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA) is grateful for the opportunity to comment on the 2025 proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainability Practices, which it discussed at its meeting on November 19, 2025.

The Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices is reviewed annually for required updates and revisions. In November 2021 CAPRA provided DIVCO with three recommendations on the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices focusing on fossil fuels and carbon offsets, with discussion of the concerns underlying its recommendations, and DIVCO forwarded these recommendations to Academic Council (attachment 1). In November 2022 CAPRA provided DIVCO with comments on the 2022 proposed revisions to the Policy which were also forwarded to Academic Council by DIVCO (attachment 2). The proposed revisions on which it is asked to comment do not fully address DIVCO's 2021 or 2022 recommendations. CAPRA continues to hold the concerns discussed in 2021 and 2022, and recommends that future revisions of the policy also address those recommendations.

This memo provides new comments only on the 2025 proposed revisions to the policy, rather than on the entire policy. CAPRA's comments are restricted to issues related to academic and physical planning, budget, and resource allocation that emerged through the review process and our discussion.

The four key revisions to the policy and our comments on them are as follows:

1. Green Building

New provisions added requiring Regents' approval for investments in natural gas infrastructure that exceed \$20M and requiring that new buildings and major renovation projects complete one year of monitoring-based commissioning to ensure that they perform as designed.

CAPRA supports the new requirement for one year of monitoring-based commissioning of new buildings and renovation projects. UCOP should consider offering funding for any mandate for monitoring.

2. Clean Energy and Climate Action

Updates remove references to centrally procured biogas (per the UC Energy Services Governing Board's direction to focus on direct emissions reductions over the use of biogas as a

transition fuel source) and add a provision allowing locations to update their interim greenhouse gas reduction targets at regular intervals. Additional minor revisions remove outdated provisions, clarify intent, and improve organization.

CAPRA supports focusing on direct emissions reductions over the use of biogas as a transition fuel source, and notes that this should likely result in cost savings. CAPRA also supports the provision allowing for interim greenhouse gas reduction targets to be updated at regular intervals.

3. Sustainable Transportation

Soon to be outdated single-occupancy vehicle reduction targets were replaced with general requirements to continue promoting commute trip reduction programs and support locations' greenhouse gas reduction efforts. Additional updates streamline the policy, clarify which State electric vehicle regulations apply to UC, and add a requirement that each location administer an annual commuter survey.

CAPRA supports the update to replace outdated targets related to single-occupancy vehicles, include additional forms of sustainable commutes, and further support greenhouse gas reduction efforts. [UC Berkeley's Annual Commuter Survey](#) is already in place, but CAPRA notes there will be budget implications for any UC locations that do not already administer annual surveys.

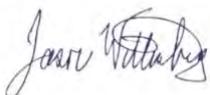
4. Sustainability at UC Health

This section was removed and its policy elements embedded within related topical policy sections. Additionally, the terms for campuses and health locations were standardized throughout the policy to clarify which provisions apply to campuses, health locations, and/or all UC entities. Although these revisions touch all sections of the policy, they do not alter existing requirements.

Given that these revisions do not actually alter existing requirements, CAPRA sees no reason to comment further.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

With best regards,



Jason Wittenberg, Chair
Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation

Enclosures:

1. *November 2021 CAPRA comments on proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices*
2. *November 2022 CAPRA comments on proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices*



320 STEPHENS HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

December 7, 2021

Enclosure 1

ROBERT HORWITZ
Chair, Academic Council

Subject: Systemwide Review of Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Chair Horwitz:

On November 29, 2021, the Council of the Berkeley Division (DIVCO) discussed the proposed revisions to the *Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices*, informed by written comments from the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA).

DIVCO supports the revisions, and agrees with the concerns and recommendations described in CAPRA's letter. There are two concerns at the level of guiding principles. First, the current draft does not sufficiently emphasize the need to reduce carbon emissions rapidly from campus heating and electrical systems, which account for the vast majority of UC's "scope 1" (direct) emissions. Second, although it sets out the principle that the university "will only use high-quality offset credits" to meet its emission reduction goals, it does not ensure compliance with that principle.

Below is a summary of recommendations provided by CAPRA, which DIVCO endorses:

1. Prioritize effort and funding towards reducing the on-campus combustion of fossil fuels. We encourage accelerating the target date for decarbonization plans to 2025, or as soon as feasible.
2. Consider whether the call to achieve 40% on-campus biogas combustion by 2025 is feasible, and what the implications of failing to achieve it would be.
3. In the near term, the policy counts on the use of purchased carbon offsets to achieve carbon neutrality. Offsets should be verifiable, additional, and equivalent. We encourage the university to investigate and report on whether any offsets available for purchase meet those conditions, and to make information about purchased offsets publicly available.

Please see the enclosed committee letter for more specificity.

Sincerely,

Ronald C. Cohen
Professor of Chemistry
Professor of Earth and Planetary Science
Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate

Enclosure

cc: Mary Ann Smart, Vice Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate
Holly Doremus, Chair, Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation
Jocelyn Surla Banaria, Executive Director
Deborah Dobin, Senate Analyst, Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation



320 STEPHENS HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

November 24, 2021

PROFESSOR RONALD COHEN
Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate

*Re: CAPRA comments on proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy
on Sustainable Practices*

At the November 17th CAPRA meeting, the committee discussed the updated Presidential Policy on Sustainability Practices. This memo is intended to provide some general comments on the policy through the lens of CAPRA's charge to consider issues of academic planning, budget, and resource allocation. If DIVCO agrees with our comments, we ask that they be forwarded not only to the Academic Council but also to Chancellor Carol Christ, Vice Chancellor Marc Fisher, Associate Vice Chancellor Sally McGarahan, and Chief Sustainability and Carbon Solutions Officer Kira Stoll.

CAPRA is grateful for the attention that has been given to developing and revising this policy. We understand that it deals with sustainability broadly, and in varying levels of detail. Much of it is admirable. However, we have two concerns at the level of guiding principles. First, the current draft does not sufficiently emphasize the need to reduce carbon emissions rapidly from campus heating and electrical systems, which account for the vast majority of UC's "scope 1" (direct) emissions. Second, although it sets out the principle that the university "will only use high-quality offset credits" to meet its emission reduction goals, it does not ensure compliance with that principle.

Summary of Recommendations

1. Prioritize effort and funding towards reducing the on-campus combustion of fossil fuels. We encourage accelerating the target date for decarbonization plans to 2025, or as soon as feasible.
2. Consider whether the call to achieve 40% on-campus biogas combustion by 2025 is feasible, and what the implications of failing to achieve it would be.
3. In the near term, the policy counts on the use of purchased carbon offsets to achieve carbon neutrality. Offsets should be verifiable, additional, and equivalent. We encourage the university to investigate and report on whether any offsets available for purchase meet those conditions, and to make information about purchased offsets publicly available.

Energy Systems

Roughly 90% of the university’s “scope 1” emissions of carbon dioxide (i.e., emissions directly emanating from on-campus combustion of fossil fuels) stems from its ten methane-fired heat and power plants. Collectively, these emit about 1 million tons per year of heat-trapping carbon dioxide,¹ making a substantial contribution to global warming.

The draft policy includes Clean Energy elements that will indirectly reduce scope 1 emissions, including calls to reduce energy use intensity by 2% annually and to install renewable energy facilities. However, the only short-term step called for to directly reduce emissions from existing campus energy plants is increased use of biogas. We do not oppose this measure, but view it as sufficiently impractical that it is unlikely to produce the results anticipated by the draft policy.

Biogas is methane derived from recently grown organic matter, e.g., as derived from anaerobic digestion of landfill waste. Unlike the burning of fossil methane, the burning of biogas does not add new carbon to the system and so does not contribute to global warming. The draft says that by 2025 “at least 40% of the [methane] combusted on-site at each campus and health location will be biogas.” Our concern is whether this can be achieved. It would require construction of new infrastructure for biogas delivery and storage on a rapid timeline. Even if it allowed purchase of biogas credits (so that biogas would be fed into the nation’s methane pipelines rather than delivered directly to university facilities), the costs might be extremely high. In either case, the anticipated reductions in carbon emissions might not be realized, since the policy (understandably) makes implementation “subject to the constraints of . . . budgetary requirements.”

It seems unwise, therefore, to rely on biogas substitution to reduce scope 1 emissions. We are disappointed with the timeline for implementing other measures. The current draft calls for each campus to complete an assessment of scope 1 emissions by 2035 (or sooner if power plants are due for major repairs or capital renewal) and at that point to determine the “best pathway . . . to decarbonize 80% of scope 1 emissions through means other than offsets.” We urge the university to consider whether the assessment date could be substantially moved up. We are concerned that delay may leave the university unable to react swiftly to potential near-term funding opportunities. To ensure prudent capital planning, and position the university as a leader on sustainability, we believe the timeline for identifying decarbonization plans for each location should be as aggressive as feasible.

Carbon Offsets

In 2013, the UC Office of the President announced the Carbon Neutrality Initiative, which “commits UC to emitting net zero greenhouse gases from its buildings and vehicle fleet by 2025.”² Overestimating the ability to switch to biogas and delaying decarbonization of onsite energy facilities will increase the demand for offsets as a method of achieving carbon neutrality.

¹ <https://electrifyuc.org/the-problem-with-methane/>

² <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/initiative/carbon-neutrality-initiative/our-commitment>

As has been widely reported, however, many existing carbon offsets suffer from problems of verifiability, additionality, and equivalence.

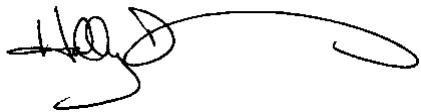
The proposed revision to the policy introduces new language regarding carbon offsets, with the laudable goal of ensuring that they produce intended climate benefits. Nonetheless, legitimate concerns remain as to whether the purchase of carbon offsets is a prudent use of university funds.

The proposed revisions require that the university use only “high-quality carbon offsets” (section V.C.9) that are enforceable, additional, and durable. We agree that these are all important characteristics (although we suggest use of the term “verifiable” rather than “enforceable”). We urge deeper consideration, however, of how high-quality offsets can be identified, and what each of the listed characteristics means. For example, we urge careful accounting of the potential for leakage. We also encourage evaluation of durability at timescales that match the residence time of fossil carbon in the atmosphere, which is several orders of magnitude longer than the 40 years specified by the draft policy. In order to truly “offset” fossil fuel emissions, offsets must sequester an equivalent amount of carbon for the entire length of the atmospheric residence time of the fossil carbon.

Finally, given the extent to which the draft policy will require reliance on offsets, we urge the Office of the President to investigate whether there are any carbon offsets available for purchase that meet the conditions of being verifiable, additional, and equivalent. Expenditures on offsets that fail one or more of these criteria would squander resources that could be better spent directly reducing the university’s scope 1 emissions.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this policy.

With best regards,



Holly Doremus, Chair
Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation



Enclosure 2

320 STEPHENS HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

November 28, 2022

PROFESSOR MARY ANN SMART
Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate

*Re: CAPRA comments on proposed Presidential Policy on
Sustainable Practices*

CAPRA is grateful for the opportunity to comment on the 2022 proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices, which it discussed at its meeting on November 16.

CAPRA notes that in November 2021 it provided DIVCO with three recommendations on fossil fuels and carbon offsets, with discussion of the concerns underlying its recommendations, and that DIVCO forwarded these recommendations to Academic Council in December 2021 (attachment 1). The proposed revisions on which it is asked to comment do not fully address DIVCO's 2021 recommendations. CAPRA continues to hold the concerns discussed in 2021, and hopes that future revisions of the policy will address its earlier recommendations.

However, noting from the cover letter that review is requested on *proposed revisions* to the policy, rather than on the policy in its entirety, we focus now on these proposed revisions. As a general observation, some of the revisions, particularly those on health and wellbeing, seem only loosely tied to sustainability. Moreover, compliance with these revisions is anticipated to require additional resources for procurement and compliance, at a time that the Berkeley campus is striving to reduce bureaucracy.

The substantive revisions, and our comments on them, are as follows:

- Green Building Design: In addition to energy efficiency standards for new construction that significantly exceed those stipulated in the California Building code, the minimum green building certification level for new buildings was raised from LEED Silver to LEED Gold. New parking structures will be required to achieve a Parksmart Silver certification.
 - While CAPRA supports these ambitious goals, and recognizes that they are likely to reduce the ongoing costs of operating and maintaining buildings, it notes that the goals are likely to increase the capital cost of new construction. Given the extensive new construction that is needed on older campuses to comply with UC's goals for seismic safety, CAPRA would have appreciated clarity on the funding source for compliance with these updated goals.

- Climate Protection: The date for campuses to achieve carbon neutrality from scope 3 sources was moved up from 2050 to 2045 to align with the State of California's goal.
 - CAPRA notes that progress on scope 3 emissions is largely under control of the state, and that the university may want to focus on the scope 1 emissions, which are directly under its control.
- Zero Waste: The target dates for the foodservice-related single-use plastic requirements were postponed until July 2024 to allow time to transition to post-pandemic operating conditions.
 - CAPRA recognizes the practical challenges with the earlier target dates.
- Sustainable Foodservice: A new target was set for UC locations to procure 25% plant-based food by 2030 and strive to procure 30%.
 - CAPRA is puzzled by this revision. The language is unclear; it does not specify what the percentages refer to – percentages by weight? By volume? By dollar cost? By calorific content? Regardless, the impact on greenhouse gases is unclear; considering both global production of various agricultural products, and most diets, CAPRA is fairly confident that all foodservice operations are already in compliance with these goals. As a specific example (assuming that the percentage refers to weight), an 8 oz beef patty with a 1 oz cheese slice would comply with the policy if served with a mere 3 oz in total of bun, fries and sugar in the accompanying soda. Accordingly, there is no obvious benefit from adding another requirement that would incur the costs of certifying compliance.
- Sustainability at UC Health: The updates to this policy section set new goals for sustainable procurement, adding provisions to cover medical device reprocessing and the procurement of appliances, hardware, and office supplies.
 - These updates seem sound, although CAPRA is uncertain whether they can be realistically achieved. Regardless, it recommends language that requires that reprocessed devices and products be as safe and reliable as any new products that they replace, given the human and fiscal consequences of inferior products.
- Health and Well-Being: New provisions set targets for the percentage of beverages and food in vending machines that meet the UC Healthy Vending Guidelines. Additional provisions cover the marketing of healthy vending items, energy efficiency, and zero waste goals for vending machines.
 - While CAPRA supports efforts to improve the health of the UC community through better dietary choices, the relationship of many of these revisions to sustainability is vague.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

With best regards,



Holly Doremus, Chair
Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation

Enclosure



320 STEPHENS HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

December 20, 2022

SUSAN COCHRAN
Chair, Academic Council

Subject: Systemwide Review of Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Chair Cochran:

On December 5, 2022, the Council of the Berkeley Division (DIVCO) discussed the proposed revisions to the *Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices*, informed by written comments from the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA).

On December 7, 2021, we submitted comments on the same policy, including three recommendations from CAPRA (see enclosures). None of those recommendations were acknowledged or incorporated in the current draft, so we list them again here:

1. *Prioritize effort and funding towards reducing the on-campus combustion of fossil fuels. We encourage accelerating the target date for decarbonization plans to 2025, or as soon as feasible.*
2. *Consider whether the call to achieve 40% on-campus biogas combustion by 2025 is feasible, and what the implications of failing to achieve it would be.*
3. *In the near term, the policy counts on the use of purchased carbon offsets to achieve carbon neutrality. Offsets should be verifiable, additional, and equivalent. We encourage the university to investigate and report on whether any offsets available for purchase meet those conditions, and to make information about purchased offsets publicly available.*

We continue to hold these 2021 concerns, while also accepting that decarbonization by 2025 was and is not feasible. We hope that future revisions of this policy will address these issues.

With these set of revisions, we question who will be responsible for the costs that will be incurred from meeting the stated policy targets at the campus level. We strongly urge UCOP to add a section on “cost effectiveness” to the policy. What is especially concerning is that there will be costs from the technology and input side, but also possibly significant administrative costs in enforcing the set of rules put forward. This policy will require more administrators, resources, and funding to implement, which is worrisome given the trends discussed in the recent

hiring report out of University Committee on Planning and Budget (UCPB) as well as the significant deferred maintenance costs already accumulated across the UC campuses.

DIVCO members also questioned why electricity was not explicitly defined as a clean transportation fuel, which would be consistent with state policies. Other questions raised related to whether the policy should allow for some very limited fossil combustion capacity as a reserve for resilience during power outages. Another topic that needs more clarity is that food service should be 25% plant-based by 2030. Faculty also suggested that the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) was not an appropriate arbiter on policy. Please see the enclosures for more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Ann Smart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Mary Ann" on the top line and "Smart" on the bottom line.

Mary Ann Smart
Professor of Music
Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate

Enclosures

cc: Maximilian Auffhammer, Vice Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate
Jocelyn Surla Banaria, Executive Director, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate
Holly Doremus, Chair, Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation
Deborah Dobin, Senate Analyst, Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation



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December 10, 2025

Ahmet Palazoglu
Chair, Academic Council

RE: Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Ahmet,

The proposed revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices were forwarded to all standing committees of the Davis Division of the Academic Senate. Seven committees responded: Faculty Welfare (FWC), Planning and Budget (CPB), and the Faculty Executive Committees of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES), the College of Biological Sciences (CBS), the College of Letters and Science (L&S), the College of Engineering (COE), and the School of Medicine (SOM).

A majority of committees express no objections to the proposed revisions. FWC and CPB express support for the revisions, with CPB applauding the removal of the mandate to develop biogas and the changes related to reducing commuting-related emissions. CPB, however, notes that it is unclear what budget analyses were conducted to understand the potential economic impact of the proposed revisions. Given the uncertainty surrounding future Facilities and Administration (F&A) rates, CPB emphasizes the importance of understanding what F&A funds will be needed for sustainability policies. Additionally, COE and CPB express concern regarding the new provision requiring Regents' approval for investments in natural gas infrastructure exceeding \$20M and provide a few additional comments and recommendations regarding requirements for new buildings and fostering a systemwide approach to sustainability. COE, CPB, and CAES also provide a few additional recommendations for consideration.

COE and CPB express concern regarding the requirement that any "capital improvement project related to existing or planned gas-fired infrastructure projects with costs exceeding \$20M must be approved by the Board of Regents" (Section III.A.1.e). COE questions whether a cost analysis has been performed to estimate the premium on adoption of low carbon energy, noting that policies requiring more expensive options warrant an open discussion where costs and benefits are transparent, particularly during a time of financial strain. CPB adds that it is unclear whether this requirement will worsen existing facility space constraints on campus and, if this cap is binding, whether it would limit repairs of existing infrastructure. CPB also wonders if there is a vision for switching to alternative infrastructure and, if so, whether the cost of that switch has been investigated.

Regarding the Section III.A.c.i requirement for new buildings to have “permanent energy metering to collect, communicate, and archive energy usage data,” CPB questions who will pay for the cost installing and monitoring this equipment. CPB also notes that Section III.A.f requires all new buildings to achieve U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) “Gold” certification at minimum but strive to achieve a USGBC LEED “Platinum” rating. CPB wonders whether money diverted to ensuring USGBC LEED “Gold” status will reduce available funding for retrofitting non-energy efficient buildings or deferred maintenance of many buildings and animal facilities. CPB adds that the money needed to reach USGBC LEED “Platinum” could potentially be spent more effectively in other ways and encourages adopting a holistic perspective that looks beyond a single project to maximize sustainability progress per dollar spent.

CPB also suggests that fostering a systemwide approach may be a way to optimize the policy. CPB notes that different UC campuses may have access to different resources based on their geographic location, and uniform guidelines applying to each campus individually may not produce the best results. Moreover, CPB suggests setting a systemwide target for the total emissions reduction goal in Section III.C.1.a, highlighting that campuses with relatively lower emissions will have a more difficult time reaching the 90% benchmark by 2045 relative to a 2019 baseline year.

Lastly, COE, CPB and CAES provide three additional recommendations for consideration. Regarding Section III.D.3, which highlights that “flexible work arrangements, including telecommuting, are a low-cost, effective way to reduce emissions and carbon footprint,” COE expresses concern that telecommuting is not suitable for every member of the campus. COE notes that the revised policy should be updated to acknowledge that telecommuting is an option for some but not all employees depending on job duties. CPB emphasizes the importance of ensuring that decisions are data-driven and research-based and maintaining flexibility in order to avoid unintended consequences. CAES notes that there were a few instances where the “diversity, equity, and inclusion” had not been removed from the policy and suggests performing a line-by-line revision.

The Davis Division appreciates the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Katheryn Niles Russ, Ph.D.
Chair, Davis Division of the Academic Senate
Professor of Economics
University of California, Davis

Enclosed: Davis Division Committee Responses

c: Monica Lin, Executive Director, Systemwide Academic Senate
Michael LaBriola, Assistant Director, Systemwide Academic Senate
Edwin M. Arevalo, Executive Director, Davis Division of the Academic Senate

December 3, 2025

Kathryn Russ

Chair, Davis Division of the Academic Senate

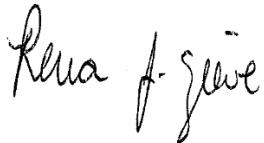
RE: RFC – Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

The Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) has reviewed and discussed the **RFC – Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices**. The committee voiced general support to the goals and values of the policy and proposed revisions. However, they would like to also provide the following feedback:

- The committee expressed disappointment that CPB concerns already expressed in the reviews carried out during both 2022-23 and 2021-22 still do not appear to be addressed and believes it is important that they be reconsidered. It remains unclear what budget analyses were conducted to understand the potential economic impact of such policy revisions. The uncertainty regarding future F&A rates makes it especially important to know what F&A funds will be needed for the sustainability policies.
- Another point raised in 2022-23 but not addressed is whether money diverted to ensuring LEED gold status will reduce available funding for retrofitting non-energy-efficient buildings or for the long-deferred maintenance of many buildings and animal facilities.
- The committee expressed concern with the following statement - “whenever possible within the constraints of program needs and standard budget parameters, new buildings will strive to achieve certification at a USGBC LEED ‘Platinum’ rating”. This does not take into account that the money needed to reach Platinum on these projects could be spent more effectively in other ways, such as retrofitting an older building. Considerations beyond an individual project are needed to get the most sustainability progress per dollar spent.
- The committee further suggests optimizing the policy by thinking of the entire UC system as a single entity. Different UC campuses may have access to different resources, based on their geographical location. For example, solar may be more cost-effective at UC Merced and UC Davis than at UC San Francisco and UC Santa Cruz. Similarly, some campuses may be better able to reduce single-use commuting miles than others. Uniform guidelines applying to each campus individually are unlikely to produce the best results.
- The committee expressed concern with Section C.1.a – “Locations will achieve at least a 90% reduction in total emissions (Scopes 1, 2, and 3) by no later than calendar year 2045 relative to a 2019 baseline year” (p. 15). Campuses with already relatively lower levels may have a harder time meeting this benchmark. Here again, setting a systemwide target may be more useful.
- The committee emphasizes the importance of maintaining flexibility in order to avoid unintended consequences. For example, blanket removal of landscaping can drive up heating costs. It is important that decisions are data-driven and research-based.
- The committee also expressed some concern that projects over \$20 million which relate to natural gas infrastructure will require Regent approval. Will this requirement worsen existing facility space constraints on campus? How likely is it that the cap would be binding, and if so, would this limit repairs of existing infrastructure? Is there a vision for switching to an alternative infrastructure? If so, has the cost of that switch been investigated?
- New buildings and major renovations would include permanent energy metering to collect, communicate, and archive energy usage data. Who will pay for the cost of installing and monitoring the metering equipment?
- The committee applauds the removal of the mandate to develop biogas and the changes to the section on reducing commuting-related emissions.

CPB appreciates the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rena f. Zieve".

Rena Zieve
Chair, Committee on Planning and Budget

November 21, 2025

Katheryn Russ

Chair, Davis Division of the Academic Senate

RE: Request for Consultation – Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Chair Russ:

The Committee on Faculty Welfare has reviewed the RFC – Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. The committee supports the revisions and has no feedback to provide.

Sincerely,



Janet Foley

Chair, Committee on Faculty Welfare

November 18, 2025

To: Katheryn Russ
Chair, Davis Division of the Academic Senate

From: Michael Kleeman
Chair, College of Engineering FEC

RE: Comment on Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Chair Russ:

The College of Engineering FEC has reviewed the proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. The committee noted the requirement for all capital projects involving natural gas must seek Regental Approval if they have a cost of \$20M or more. We wonder if a cost analysis has been performed to estimate the premium on adoption of low carbon energy at a time when finances are strained. Given the depth of cuts impacting student education and research in our college, adoption of policies requiring more expensive energy options seems to merit at least an open discussion where the costs and benefits are transparently presented.

Section D.3 of the revised policy notes that telecommuting is an effect option to reduce GHG emissions. Multiple committee members expressed concern that telecommuting is not suitable for every member of the campus. Certain job titles require in-person interactions. The revised policy should be updated to acknowledge that telecommuting is an option for some, but not all, employees depending on job duties.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed policy revision.

Sincerely,



Michael Kleeman

Chair, COE FEC

December 3, 2025

Ahmet Palazoglu
Chair, Academic Council

Re: Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

The Irvine Division Cabinet discussed the proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices at its meeting on December 2, 2025. The Council on Faculty Welfare, Diversity, and Academic Freedom (CFW) and the Council on Planning and Budget (CPB) also reviewed the proposal. Their feedback is attached for your review.

The Irvine Division appreciates the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Jane Stoever, Chair
Academic Senate, Irvine Division

Cc: Lisa Grant Ludwig, Chair Elect-Secretary
Jisoo Kim, Executive Director
Gina Anzivino, Associate Director

November 20, 2025

**JANE STOEVER, CHAIR
ACADEMIC SENATE – IRVINE DIVISION****Re: Systemwide Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices**

Systemwide Senate Chair Palazoglu distributed for systemwide review proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. The systemwide Sustainability Steering Committee is the governing body for the Sustainable Practices Policy and reviews it annually for required updates and revisions. This year, the committee approved updates to several sections of the policy.

The Council on Faculty Welfare, Diversity, and Academic Freedom (CFW) discussed this issue at its meeting on November 18, 2025, and submits the following comments:

1. Overall, members agreed that these proposed revisions were positive.
2. Members emphasized the value of UC's ongoing efforts to reduce single-occupancy vehicle commuting and emphasized that UCI's [Sustainable Transportation Incentive Program](#) has been particularly effective in supporting this goal. The program's limited-use incentive parking permits have played an important role in shifting commuter behavior, and members expressed hope that future transportation policy changes continue to enable and reinforce successful campus-level programs like this one.
3. Members noted there was no rationale to exclude medical office buildings from certain sustainability standards.
4. In the "Commute" section on page 15 of the Tracked Changes document, measurable goals seem to have been removed. A member stated that this was an unfortunate revision given that commuting is a major source of emissions.

Sincerely,



Ben Lourie, Chair
Council on Faculty Welfare, Diversity, and Academic Freedom

December 1, 2025

**JANE STOEVER, CHAIR
ACADEMIC SENATE, IRVINE DIVISION**

RE: Proposed Revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

At its November 12, 2025 meeting, the Council on Planning and Budget (CPB) discussed the proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices.

The proposed revisions emphasize operational decarbonization, the phase-out of natural gas, and expanded accountability in monitoring-based commissioning, procurement, and climate action. Notably, UC Health sustainability requirements have been integrated into topical sections to streamline oversight and clarify applicability across campus and health locations. The policy continues to establish measurable goals across several domains including green building design, clean energy, climate action, transportation, procurement, zero waste, food systems, and equity.

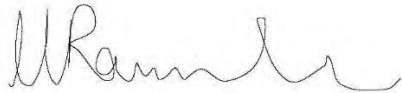
Overall, CPB observed that the revisions modernize UC's sustainability policy, reinforcing systemwide decarbonization, waste reduction, and equity commitments while maintaining flexibility for local adaptation. The policy's stronger accountability mechanisms—particularly in green building commissioning, procurement standards, and emissions-linked funding—advance transparency but may increase compliance costs in the short term.

While the Council endorses the proposed revisions, CPB offers the following recommendations:

- UCOP should provide transition funding or technical assistance for smaller campuses and health locations to achieve new compliance targets equitably.
- There should be periodic cost-benefit analyses of sustainability mandates to ensure that capital and operating expenses remain balanced against carbon reduction outcomes.

The Council appreciates the opportunity to comment.

On behalf of the Council,



Maria Pantelia, Chair
Council on Planning and Budget



UCLA Academic Senate

Executive Board

December 8, 2025

Ahmet Palazoglu
Chair, UC Systemwide Academic Senate

Re: (Systemwide Senate Review) Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Chair Palazoglu,

The UCLA divisional Executive Board (EB) reviewed the proposed presidential policy on sustainable practices and the committee/council feedback at their meeting on December 4, 2025. EB members agreed to share the comments from the divisional councils and committees for systemwide consideration.

One member noted that the requirement for capital improvements involving gas infrastructure above a certain threshold to go to the Regents seemed broad, vague, and could slow things down.

Sincerely,



Megan McEvoy
Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

Encl.

Cc: Kathy Bawn, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate
Tim Groeling, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, UCLA Academic Senate

November 25, 2025

Megan McEvoy, Chair
Academic Senate

Re: Systemwide Senate Review: Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Chair McEvoy,

The Council on Research (COR) reviewed and discussed the Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. COR members shared the following comments.

Members suggested adding language to account for energy use by Artificial Intelligence as well as cloud-based High-Performance Computing, as there is widespread use for research purposes and ongoing increase in usage. Some members suggested that the University of California could become a leader in accounting the net effect energy footprint of AI use.

Members also suggested the addition of language to account for production of sustainable energy and its use to offset overall energy use. There needs to be mention about encouraging production of green energy (e.g., by installing solar panels on buildings) and accounting for its generation.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment. If you have any questions for us, please do not hesitate to contact me at shlyakht@ipam.ucla.edu or via the Council's analyst, Elizabeth Feller, at efeller@senate.ucla.edu.

Sincerely,

Dimitri Shlyakhtenko, Chair
Council on Research

cc: Tim Groeling, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Academic Senate
Kathleen Bawn, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, Academic Senate
Elizabeth Feller, Associate Director, Academic Senate
Members of the Council on Research

November 25, 2025

Megan McEvoy, Chair
Academic Senate

Re: Systemwide Senate Review - Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Chair McEvoy,

At its meeting on November 10, 2025, the Council on Planning and Budget (CPB) reviewed and discussed the proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices.

CPB members emphasized the need for clarity on transportation-related provisions, including the treatment of single-occupancy vehicles and campus-owned vehicles. Members noted that any policy should balance sustainability objectives with operational needs and ensure that commuting options remain practical and equitable. Suggestions included exploring incentives for sustainable commuting, such as discounted parking for carpooling or other low-impact travel modes.

Additionally, members highlighted concerns about the potential regulatory and financial impacts of adopting new sustainability measures. CPB strongly recommends that any systemwide policy incorporate a thorough cost-benefit or cost-effectiveness analysis to evaluate both short- and long-term implications. This analysis should address how significant costs will be managed, particularly in the context of existing budget constraints, while identifying opportunities for measures that can achieve sustainability goals and generate savings.

CPB members support the intent of the proposed policy but urge that its implementation be guided by rigorous financial analysis and practical considerations to ensure feasibility and effectiveness.

If you have any questions for us, please do not hesitate to contact me at desjardins@ucla.edu or via the Council's analyst, Elizabeth Feller, at efeller@senate.ucla.edu.

Best regards,

Richard Desjardins, Chair
Council on Planning and Budget

cc: Tim Groeling, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Academic Senate
Kathleen Bawn, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, Academic Senate
Elizabeth Feller, Associate Director, Academic Senate
Members of the Council on Planning and Budget

November 25, 2025

To: Megan McEvoy, Chair, Academic Senate

From: Elizabeth Rose Mayeda, Chair, Faculty Welfare Committee

Re: (Systemwide Senate Review) Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

At its November 4, 2025, meeting, the Faculty Welfare Committee (FWC) reviewed the Systemwide Senate's Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices.

FWC members welcome the University's proactive efforts to promote sustainable practices. Members acknowledged that there are trade-offs between sustainability initiatives and associated costs for both the University and its individual community members, including faculty.

Sustainable transportation practices and sustainable food service practices are two areas where members encourage the University to consider affordability for faculty. As noted in the proposed policy, single-occupant vehicle commuting is an important source of greenhouse gas emissions. However, in designing sustainability policies, members noted that it is important to consider commuting expenses for faculty. Campus parking fees rise each year, often outpacing cost-of-living adjustments. In terms of food services, while shifting toward more plant-based options is positive from a sustainability perspective, members noted the importance of avoiding discriminatory pricing of meat. Sustainability practices should be inclusive and considerate of the diverse needs and circumstances of all members of the University community.

Regarding financial considerations for the University, FWC members noted that commitments to green building design can, in some cases, contribute to renovation costs that go over budget. Balancing these trade-offs requires careful consideration of both the University's sustainability goals and its finances.

Thank you for the opportunity to opine on the proposed policy. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at mayeda@g.ucla.edu or the Committee analyst, Renee Rouzan-Kay, at rrouzankay@senate.ucla.edu.

CC: Tim Groeling, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Academic Senate
Kathleen Bawn, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, Academic Senate
Renee Rouzan-Kay Committee Analyst, Academic Senate
Members of the Faculty Welfare Committee

To: Megan McEvoy, Chair, Academic Senate, UCLA

Fr: Erin Debenport, Chair, College Faculty Executive Committee

Date: November 13, 2025

Re: **(Systemwide Senate Review) Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices**

The College Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) at UCLA appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. After a review of the report by committee members, we offer the following comment.

Members requested that preparedness information be included on the available reserves in terms of emergency energy usage in order to mitigate situations where energy is suddenly depleted, potentially placing experiments and research at risk of being lost or compromised.

As always, our membership appreciates the consultative process and welcomes the opportunity to participate in the discussion of important matters like this. You are welcome to contact us with questions.

The College Faculty Executive Committee

**OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE**

Kevin Mitchell, Chair of the Academic Senate

senatechair@ucmerced.edu

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

5200 North Lake Road

Merced, California 95343

November 3, 2025**To: Ahmet Palazoglu, Chair, Academic Council****From: Kevin Mitchell, Chair, Divisional Council (DivCo)****Re: Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices**

The proposed revisions to the **Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices** were distributed to the Merced Division Senate Committees and the School Executive Committees for review. The following committees submitted comments, which are appended to this memo for reference and summarized below.

- Committee on Rules and Elections (CRE)
- Undergraduate Council (UGC)
- School of Natural Sciences Executive Committee (NSEC)

On October 29, the Divisional Council (DivCo) reviewed and discussed the feedback submitted by these committees. DivCo supports the views and recommendations expressed by CRE, UGC, and NSEC and encourages that they be considered in the final revision of the policy.

CRE provided procedural and clarity-oriented comments, focusing on consistency, precision, and alignment with broader policy goals. CRE recommends renumbering **Section III.A.1** (“New Buildings”) and updating all related references in **Section III.A.2** (“Building Renovations”) to ensure consistency throughout the document. CRE also suggests clarifying the phrase “two years before the target date” by specifying December 31 rather than January 1, to align with calendar-year reporting conventions.

In **Section III.D.3**, CRE advises revising the term “fuel” to reflect California’s goal of promoting zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) rather than increasing fuel use. The Committee further raises concerns about inconsistent and potentially ambiguous use of the term “Locations” and recommends using “All Locations” consistently, with standardized capitalization. Finally, CRE recommends defining the “standardized data format” referenced in **Section V.G.4.a** and revising the section to clearly specify required informational fields. Overall, CRE’s feedback strengthens the document’s structure, clarity, and alignment with state and systemwide sustainability objectives.

UGC reviewed the proposed revisions with attention to their potential impacts on UC Merced undergraduates' access, affordability, and wellness.

Regarding sustainable transportation, UGC expressed concern that removing specific single-occupancy vehicle reduction targets could weaken accountability and hinder progress tracking. The Council supports the new annual commuter survey requirement but emphasizes that survey findings should lead to tangible improvements in transit, carpooling, and bicycle infrastructure, and that outcomes should be publicly reported. UGC also notes that most UC Merced students cannot afford electric vehicles or easily access charging stations; therefore, sustainability goals should prioritize ZEV carshare options and enhanced public transportation.

Regarding sustainability within UC Health¹ operations, UGC is concerned that deleting the dedicated UC Health section diminishes focus on health-related goals. The Council notes that sustainability policies affecting buildings, energy, and procurement have direct implications for student wellness and affordability, particularly on campuses where access to health services is limited. UGC encourages UC to explicitly connect sustainability measures to student health benefits, including improved air quality, healthier food options, and equitable access to care.

The **NSEC** expresses full support for the objectives of the policy. To advance these goals, the NSEC recommends a coordinated systemwide and campus-level effort to

1. Assess areas where current practices fall short of the policy's standards, and
2. Develop strategic mechanisms to address and eliminate these gaps, thereby strengthening the University's overall sustainability commitment.

In summary, the revisions have improved clarity and organization, and the document has benefited from diverse committee perspectives.

We thank you for the opportunity to review this Presidential Policy.

Cc: DivCo Members
School Executive Committee Chairs
UCM Senate Office
UCOP Senate Office

¹ It was noted during discussions that "UC Health" refers specifically to the University's health enterprise encompassing hospitals and medical education programs.



October 17, 2025

To: **Kevin Mitchell, Chair, Divisional Council**

From: **Committee on Rules and Elections (CRE)**

Re: **Proposed Revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices**

The Committee on Rules and Elections (CRE) reviewed the proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices and offers the following comments.

1. CRE recommends renumbering Section III.A.1, *New Buildings*, and updating the references listed in Section III.A.2, *Building Renovations*.

Section III.A.2, Building Renovations (page 11 of the proposed revisions)

- Section III.A.2.a.i refers to “applicable LEED and/or Parksmart certification requirements” as described in III.A.1.d or III.A.1.e. However, the revisions propose two new bullet points to Section III.A.1, requiring that III.A.1.d be changed to III.A.1.f and III.A.1.e be changed to III.A.1.g.
- Section III.A.2.a.iii refers to III.A.1.c, which should be changed to III.A.1.d.
- Section III.A.2.a.iv refers to III.A.1.h, however the relevant information is described in III.A.1.c.

CRE recommends that the document be searched for other cases where the references to Section III.A.1, *New Buildings*, need to be updated based on the proposed revisions.

2. CRE suggests defining what is meant by two years.

Section III.C.2, Scope 1 Emissions (page 12 of the proposed revisions)

Section III.C.2.a currently states, “Locations will assess progress toward meeting these targets and submit any changes to those targets to UCOP at least two years before the target date (i.e., by January 1, 2028, 2033, or 2038).”

CRE believes it should be December 31 rather than January 1. If there is a target for calendar year 2030, the year would be completed on December 31 and two years before that would be December 31, 2028.

3. Unclarity regarding the use of the word “fuel”.

Section III.D.3 currently states, “...goal of increasing clean transportation fuel...” (page 16 of the proposed revisions).

CRE believes that California has the goal of increasing the use of zero-emission vehicles, not to increase fuel consumption. Section III.D.3 could be revised to read “Consistent with the State of California's goal of increasing use of ZEVs, Locations will promote purchase of ZEVs and support investment in charging and clean transportation fuel infrastructure, through...”

4. CRE notes concerns around the use of “Locations”.

CRE notes that one of the most substantial changes made was to standardize how multiple locations are referred to. CRE found it difficult to check whether these changes were made correctly and would have preferred that “All Locations” be used rather than “Locations” since “Health Locations” and “Campus Locations” are also defined.

Section III.E, Sustainable Building and Laboratory Operations (page 16 of the proposed revisions)

- Section III.E.2.a currently states, “At least one staff or faculty member from Campus Locations”. CRE wonders whether this means one for the whole system or if the proposers might have meant “At least one staff or faculty member from each Campus Location...”. In general, throughout the document it is saying “Locations will...” with the implication that each Location will take that action. Furthermore, Section III.E.2 states, “Campus Locations will develop and maintain an ongoing Green Lab Assessment Program supported by a department on campus...”. CRE believes this to be vague and reads this to allow the possibility that there be one systemwide program supported by a department on each campus.
- Section III.E.2.c uses unambiguous language such as, “All Campus Locations will...,” suggesting a deliberate and inclusive phrasing. In Section V.B, *Clean Energy* (page 32 of the proposed revisions), the text intentionally replaces “Each location’s” with “Locations”, which may indicate that “Locations” has been previously defined in a collective or standardized way. In several instances, earlier drafts referred to specific sites, e.g., “this location” or “that location” which felt clear and direct. However, that language has now been replaced with the broader term “Locations.” Sometimes a list is provided for clarity, but often the reference is simply “Locations,” without further specification. This may provide the needed clarity, but we observed that the translation from the old communication strategy to the new method of specifying the locations was inconsistent, without description of why different sets of locations were identified in each clause, so CRE wonders whether there will be remaining confusion, but acknowledges that the new version appears to be an improvement over the previous.

In addition, CRE notes that at times the term “Locations” is capitalized and other times it is not as on the top of page 34 of the proposed revisions. Though it is unclear if this is intentional, CRE recommends consistency throughout the document.

5. CRE suggests defining a standardized data format.

CRE recommends the following revision to Section V.G.4.a (page 41 of the proposed revisions) for clarity:

"a. Informational fields:

- a. Location Name
- b. Department...

b. Third-party sustainability attribute or certification...”

CRE also notes that a standardized data format is being asked for yet it is unclear what the standardized format is.

We thank you for the opportunity to review and comment.



ACADEMIC SENATE, MERCED DIVISION
UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL (UGC)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

October 17, 2025

To: Kevin Mitchell, Chair, Academic Senate

From: Susan Varnot, Chair, Undergraduate Council (UGC)

Re: Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

During their October 17, 2025 meeting, the Undergraduate Council (UGC) reviewed the proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices, focusing on the Sustainable Transportation and UC Health sections. UGC provides the following comments, with particular attention to potential impacts on UC Merced undergraduates' access, affordability, and wellness.

1. Sustainable Transportation

Proposed Changes: Outdated single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) reduction targets were removed and replaced with a general requirement to promote commute trip reduction programs. A new requirement was added that each location conduct an annual commuter survey. Section was updated to clarify which state electric vehicle (EV) regulations apply.

Comments:

- UGC is concerned that replacing specific SOV reduction targets (such as the former benchmark of no more than 30% of employees and students commuting by SOV by 2050) may weaken accountability, since campuses will no longer have measurable benchmarks to track sustainability progress. At UC Merced, where many students live in surrounding Central Valley communities and must commute long distances by car, retaining clear, quantifiable metrics would help ensure continued investment in student focused transit solutions.
- The addition of an annual commuter survey is welcomed; however, the surveys must be tied to concrete action. At UC Merced, data from the commuter survey should guide improvements in bus routes, carpool programs, and safe bicycle infrastructure. Survey results should also be made publicly available so that students, faculty and staff can see how their feedback leads to changes.
- While clarifying EV regulations is helpful, UGC notes that most UC Merced students cannot afford zero emissions vehicles (ZEV) nor do they have sufficient access to charging stations. Sustainability goals in this area should be focused on

strategies such as ZEV carshare/rentals, improved charging infrastructure, and improvement in public transportation options.

2. Sustainability at UC Health

Proposed Changes: An entire section was deleted, with the provisions and suggestions embedded in other areas in the document (i.e. buildings, procurement, energy, etc.) Terms were standardized throughout the policy to clarify applicability to campuses and health locations.

Comments

- UGC is concerned that removing a dedicated UC Health section reduces the visibility of health-related sustainability goals.
- Sustainability measures related to health that are mentioned in the document include building renovations requiring stricter energy standards, energy efficiency and clean energy transitions, and procurement policies that affected food and medical supplies. These policies have direct implications for student health and wellness. At UC Merced, where campus health services are limited, it is essential that these policy changes do not reduce the affordability or accessibility of student and staff health care.
- UGC encourages UC to explain how sustainability efforts support student health and well-being. For example, clean energy transitions and green building standards can improve indoor air quality. Likewise sustainable food procurement can support student nutrition and affordability.

UGC thanks you for the opportunity to review the Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices.

Cc: Senate Office
UGC Members

From: Jennifer Manilay <jmanilay@ucmerced.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 3:06 PM
To: Fatima Paul <fpaul@ucmerced.edu>; ucm senatechair <senatechair@ucmerced.edu>
Cc: Michael Dawson <mdawson@ucmerced.edu>; Jay Sharping <jsharping@ucmerced.edu>; Tao Ye <tye2@ucmerced.edu>; Susan DeRiemer <sderiemer@ucmerced.edu>; Mayya Tokman <mtokman@ucmerced.edu>
Subject: RE: [Systemwide Review Item] Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices (Due by 10/20/2025)

Dear Fatima and Kevin:

NSEC fully supports the objectives of the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices (PPSP). To advance these goals, we recommend a coordinated effort, across both system and campus levels, to:

1. Assess and identify practices that fall short of PPSP standards, and
2. Develop strategic mechanisms to prioritize and eliminate these discrepancies, strengthening our collective commitment to sustainability.

Sincerely,

Jennifer O. Manilay, PhD (*pronounced mah-NEE-lie, sounds like “money-lie”*)
Professor, Dept. of Molecular and Cell Biology
Chair, Natural Sciences Executive Committee AY-25-26
School of Natural Sciences
University of California, Merced
jmanilay@ucmerced.edu

Pronouns: she/her/hers



CHAIR, ACADEMIC SENATE
RIVERSIDE DIVISION
UNIVERSITY OFFICE BUILDING, RM 225

Kenneth Barish
PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY
RIVERSIDE, CA 92521-0217
TEL: (951) 827-5023
EMAIL: kenneth.barish@ucr.edu

December 9, 2025

Ahmet Palazoglu, Chair, Academic Council
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607-5200

RE: Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Ahmet,

On December 8, 2025, the Riverside Academic Senate Executive Council discussed the *Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices* and had no comments to add to those submitted by local committees. As you'll find from the attached memos, there is general support for the revisions, as well as, constructive feedback for improvement:

School of Public Policy faculty executive committee:

1. Minor Editing. We have two minor editing suggestions from within the document. Suggestion 1. We suggest reconsidering the definition for Indirect Potable Reuse as defined on page 7: "Indirect Potable Reuse: Treated wastewater blended with groundwater or other water sources reused as potable or non-potable water." It isn't clear here that with IPR the wastewater is introduced to some environmental buffer for purification and dilution purposes, such as injection into groundwater systems or into surface water reservoirs, and then extracted later for introduction into the water system as potable or non-potable water. The current definition suggests that blending alone—e.g., with some groundwater that has been pumped—immediately following treatment would suffice. Suggestion 2. In Section H. Sustainable Foodservices, C.i., it reads: "Each Campus and Health Location will procure 25% plant-based food by 2030 and strive to procure 30% by 2030." We suspect that the later reference to 2030 is perhaps supposed to be some later time period as the initial commitment is to achieve 25% by 2030.
2. Two Comments on the New Section 2. Commute. One challenge to (2a) solely using surveys to track commuter mode split is that response rates for such surveys are frequently extremely low. The University may want to consider supplementing survey data with available administrative data (such as the number of entries into parking lots, the number of parking permits sold, and the number of transit rides taken using University passes).

Additionally, policies such as (2c) "Foster accessible, equitable, and sustainable transportation options with a commitment to safe access and a focus on meeting the needs of underrepresented and underserved communities" are relatively broad and may be

difficult to measure the degree to which success is being achieved. Listing at least some defined milestones that could reasonably be made available at all locations (such as pretax commuter benefit cards) may be beneficial.

School of Medicine faculty executive committee:

The FEC discussed incorporation of UCR Health into the sustainability initiative and the standardization of campus and health facility policies. They agreed that UCR Health should be treated as an integrated part of the campus rather than a separate entity.

College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences:

The CHASS Executive Committee (EC) reviewed the Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainability Practices. First, the EC notes the policy's emphasis on the University's interest to renew its commitments to sustainable transportation. While the Committee supports the thrust of this policy recommendation, we encourage the drafters to more clearly delineate what incentives, if any, will be offered to university employees to support and ensure the success of this program.

Much of the EC's concerns converged around the policy's failure to stipulate a clear and serious strategy for addressing sustainability, health, equity concerns associated with existing buildings—some of which have garnered the reputation for being notoriously unhealthy due, in some cases, to the asbestos and other harmful materials they are well known to contain. While we recognize current efforts to remediate the presence of harmful materials through UCR's Environmental Health and Safety Office, we are curious as to the detailed nature of the partnership between EH&S and implementation of local campus sustainability initiatives going forward. Any comprehensive University sustainability policy—especially one that has as its focus addressing “health, equity, and the environment” through the promotion of “healthy buildings” (p.24)—must account for its existing infrastructure to bring that up to standard, otherwise the policy will be dangerously incomplete.

Also, from an equity perspective, the Committee believes the policy should include provisions outlining how the University plans to address disparities in capacity among various locations and whether additional resources will be allocated to campuses with fewer assets to implement these changes. This is especially critical in view of current plans for state funding cuts across the UC, but especially with respect to campuses such as UC Riverside and UC Merced. We advise the inclusion of language recognizing resource imbalances and the establishment of a framework—even if provisional—for developing a structure of shared support across campus locations so that the University's sustainability efforts do not reproduce inequality.

Finally, the Committee also identifies as a significant oversight the policy's failure to articulate how the University's health, climate action, and sustainability efforts are being considered alongside the sustainability efforts and policies specific to each campus location. Accordingly, the Committee proposes the adoption of language that conveys an attentiveness to the potential impacts of these policies on, and their alignment with local community standards and aspirations.

College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences faculty executive committee:

The committee is in agreement that the goals of this proposal are very aspirational, but feel that more reasonable expectations and timeframes should be provided. The proposal indicates that by 2026 we are supposed to have 100% clean energy at all UC locations, but we are already not meeting this

standard, given that we aren't currently buying clean energy here at UC Riverside. Who is going to enforce this? How is this going to be implemented in the next two months?

There are also concerns about the costs that will be incurred for new facilities and to renovate older facilities, many of which we have here on campus, that need major upgrades. If there is going to be a requirement for a gold or platinum standard, the costs may be too high to renovate existing structures and this doesn't take into account the additional fire code requirements that have to be addressed as well, when renovations occur. Where is the money going to come from to pay for these additional expenses?

The committee does not object to the proposed changes, but are concerned for the growth of the campus if this policy hinders additional expansions and much needed improvements to existing campus structures.

Committee on Planning and Budget:

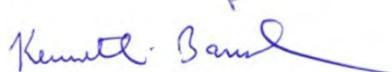
- With respect to the provisions related to green buildings, what spurred this on? Is there a history of buildings not complying with functional requirements related to the
- actual performance of the building? Could environmental standards that are already set be met; and yet, performance goals
- not be met? Is it worth the additional money? The UC has its own inspectors that are supposed to ensure that contractors are doing
- things as specified; so why would this be necessary? It seems like an unnecessary expense.

Committee on Physical Resources Planning:

The Physical Resources Planning Committee (PRP) reviewed the systemwide Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. The committee appreciates the efforts to move from indirect to direct decarbonization as indicated in moving from biogas procurement to targeting central plant decarbonization. The committee recognizes this change is facilitated by longer timescale. With this, however, there is concern with the potential for further elongation of the timeline for important direct actions like these as the 2045 90% decarbonization deadline approaches.

The committee considers the most useful and effective policies to be requirements like new building energy efficiency standards, and LEED-gold certification thresholds. These effective policies have been strengthened with this update with requirements of real-world monitoring of energy use intensity (EUI) for one year after occupancy. Nevertheless, many of the items within this policy have aspirational targets, without strict requirements or consequences in the event of failure. The actions as outlined are often focused on "prioritizing," "fostering," "pursuing," and the like, weakening the policy overall and diminishing its potential to compel substantive change.

Best regards,



Kenneth Barish
Professor of Physics and Astronomy and Chair of the Riverside Division



November 14, 2025

TO: Ken Barish, Chair
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

FROM: Iván Aguirre, Interim Chair
CHASS Executive Committee

RE: Proposal: Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

The CHASS Executive Committee (EC) reviewed the Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainability Practices. First, the EC notes the policy's emphasis on the University's interest to renew its commitments to sustainable transportation. While the Committee supports the thrust of this policy recommendation, we encourage the drafters to more clearly delineate what incentives, if any, will be offered to university employees to support and ensure the success of this program.

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even if provisional—for developing a structure of shared support across campus locations so that the University’s sustainability efforts do not reproduce inequality.

Finally, the Committee also identifies as a significant oversight the policy’s failure to articulate how the University’s health, climate action, and sustainability efforts are being considered alongside the sustainability efforts and policies specific to each campus location. Accordingly, the Committee proposes the adoption of language that conveys an attentiveness to the potential impacts of these policies on, and their alignment with local community standards and aspirations.

November 21st, 2025

TO: Kenneth N. Barish, Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

FROM: Harry Tom, Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

SUBJECT: [Systemwide Review] Proposal: Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Prof. Barish,

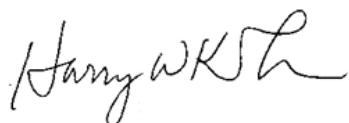
The CNAS Faculty Executive Committee has reviewed the proposed revisions to the presidential policy on sustainable practices at their November 18th meeting and had comments to provide to the Senate.

The committee is in agreement that the goals of this proposal are very aspirational, but feel that more reasonable expectations and timeframes should be provided. The proposal indicates that by 2026 we are supposed to have 100% clean energy at all UC locations, but we are already not meeting this standard, given that we aren't currently buying clean energy here at UC Riverside. Who is going to enforce this? How is this going to be implemented in the next two months?

There are also concerns about the costs that will be incurred for new facilities and to renovate older facilities, many of which we have here on campus, that need major upgrades. If there is going to be a requirement for a gold or platinum standard, the costs may be too high to renovate existing structures and this doesn't take into account the additional fire code requirements that have to be addressed as well, when renovations occur. Where is the money going to come from to pay for these additional expenses?

The committee does not object to the proposed changes, but are concerned for the growth of the campus if this policy hinders additional expansions and much needed improvements to existing campus structures.

Sincerely,



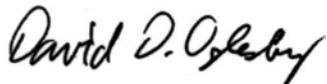
Harry Tom, Ph.D
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

PLANNING AND BUDGET

November 20, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: David Oglesby, Chair
Committee on Planning and Budget



Re: [Systemwide Review] Proposal: *Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices*

The Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) reviewed the *Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices*. CPB has the following questions/comments:

- With respect to the provisions related to green buildings, what spurred this on? Is there a history of buildings not complying with functional requirements related to the actual performance of the building?
- Could environmental standards that are already set be met; and yet, performance goals not be met? Is it worth the additional money?
- The UC has its own inspectors that are supposed to ensure that contractors are doing things as specified; so why would this be necessary? It seems like an unnecessary expense.



Academic Senate

PHYSICAL RESOURCES PLANNING

November 21, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Academic Senate

From: Brian Siana, Physical Resources Planning Committee Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'BS'.

Re: [Systemwide Review] (Proposal) Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

The Physical Resources Planning Committee (PRP) reviewed the *systemwide Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices*. The committee appreciates the efforts to move from indirect to direct decarbonization as indicated in moving from biogas procurement to targeting central plant decarbonization. The committee recognizes this change is facilitated by longer timescale. With this, however, there is concern with the potential for further elongation of the timeline for important direct actions like these as the 2045 90% decarbonization deadline approaches.

The committee considers the most useful and effective policies to be requirements like new building energy efficiency standards, and LEED-gold certification thresholds. These effective policies have been strengthened with this update with requirements of real-world monitoring of energy use intensity (EUI) for one year after occupancy. Nevertheless, many of the items within this policy have aspirational targets, without strict requirements or consequences in the event of failure. The actions as outlined are often focused on “prioritizing,” “fostering,” “pursuing,” and the like, weakening the policy overall and diminishing its potential to compel substantive change.



November 12, 2025

TO: Ken Barish, PhD, Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

FROM: Adam Godzik, Ph.D., Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, UCR School of Medicine

SUBJECT: **Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices**

Dear Ken,

The SOM Faculty Executive Committee has reviewed the Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices.

The FEC discussed incorporation of UCR Health into the sustainability initiative and the standardization of campus and health facility policies. They agreed that UCR Health should be treated as an integrated part of the campus rather than a separate entity.

Yours sincerely,

DocuSigned by:


Adam Godzik
F3F7FC0ECB4E4AD...
Adam Godzik, Ph.D.
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee School of Medicine

TO: Ken Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

FR: Kurt Schwabe, Chair *Kurt Schwabe*
Executive Committee, School of Public Policy

RE: **[Comments] Re: Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices**

Date: November 16, 2025

The Executive Committee of the School of Public Policy has reviewed the **Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices**. We appreciate the effort and recommendations provided by the Sustainability Steering Committee and are in general agreement with the approved policy updates.

We do recommend a few considerations, though.

1. **Minor Editing**. We have two minor editing suggestions from within the document.

Suggestion 1. We suggest reconsidering the definition for Indirect Potable Reuse as defined on page 7:

“Indirect Potable Reuse: Treated wastewater blended with groundwater or other water sources reused as potable or non-potable water.”

It isn’t clear here that with IPR the wastewater is introduced to some environmental buffer for purification and dilution purposes, such as injection into groundwater systems or into surface water reservoirs, and then extracted later for introduction into the water system as potable or non-potable water. The current definition suggests that blending alone—e.g., with some groundwater that has been pumped—immediately following treatment would suffice.

Suggestion 2. In Section H. Sustainable Foodservices, C.i., it reads:

“Each Campus and Health Location will procure 25% plant-based food by 2030 and strive to procure 30% by 2030.”

We suspect that the later reference to 2030 is perhaps supposed to be some later time period as the initial commitment is to achieve 25% by 2030.

2. **Two Comments on the New Section 2. Commute**.

One challenge to (2a) solely using surveys to track commuter mode split is that response rates for such surveys are frequently extremely low. The University may want to consider supplementing survey data with available administrative data (such as the number of

entries into parking lots, the number of parking permits sold, and the number of transit rides taken using University passes).

Additionally, policies such as (2c) “Foster accessible, equitable, and sustainable transportation options with a commitment to safe access and a focus on meeting the needs of underrepresented and underserved communities” are relatively broad and may be difficult to measure the degree to which success is being achieved. Listing at least some defined milestones that could reasonably be made available at all locations (such as pretax commuter benefit cards) may be beneficial.





OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

9500 GILMAN DRIVE
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92093-0002
TELEPHONE: (858) 534-3640
FAX: (858) 534-4528

December 10, 2025

Professor Ahmet Palazoglu
Chair, Academic Senate
University of California
VIA EMAIL

Re: Divisional Review of Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Chair Palazoglu,

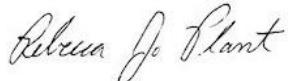
The proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices were distributed to San Diego Divisional Senate standing committees and discussed at the December 8, 2025 Divisional Senate Council meeting. Senate Council opposed the proposal, noting that the proposed revisions raise important concerns about clarity within the policy, roll back UC's institutional support for decarbonization and emissions reduction, and do not take the influence of budget conditions into account. Senate Council offered the following comments for consideration:

- The proposed addition of item E to the “New Buildings” section would create a major exception to item D’s ban on on-site fossil-fuel combustion, allowing new fossil-fuel infrastructure and directly contradicting UCOP’s goal to achieve a fossil-free campus by 2045 as outlined in the Pathways to Fossil-Free UC report. Additionally, the policy does not fully address UC’s substantial fossil-fuel emissions and contains contradictory language about biomethane, carbon offsets, and clean electricity. These inconsistencies make it difficult to assess whether UC is taking meaningful steps away from fossil-fuel reliance.
- The current emissions-reduction target should be accelerated since California’s cap-and-trade allowances will be near zero by 2040, and offsets are not viable. A more aggressive 2040 deadline would better position UC as a climate-action leader.
- The removal of the statement in Section C Climate Action that campuses will set the most aggressive targets feasible and work to secure funding to meet those targets undermines the message that decarbonization remains a top institutional priority and should be reinstated.
- The revised sustainable transportation language weakens Scope 3 emissions goals. Ambitious goals should be retained, and the Global Climate Leadership Council (GCLC) should be consulted to develop realistic policies for commuting and aviation emissions.
- Reviewers noted that the housing-related recommendations were removed from the policy, yet housing shortages intersect with transportation reduction strategies. As enrollment grows, a lack of affordable or available university area housing leads to more people driving to campus.
- The rationale for choosing 2025 as the deadline for many action items is unclear. Unless the goal is to demonstrate that current targets are not being met, the deadline should be updated to a realistic future date.
- Items pertaining to “healthcare” have been removed throughout the document, creating the impression that healthcare and clinical operations are exempt from certain provisions of the policy. It is unclear whether this was intentional or not.

- New monitoring, reporting, and compliance procedures may increase faculty and staff workloads. Implementation of new processes should be backed by sufficient resources and tailored to each campus's circumstances to ensure equity.

The responses from the Divisional Committee on Campus Climate Change, Committee on Campus and Community Environment, Committee on Faculty Welfare, and Committee on Planning and Budget are attached.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Jo Plant
Chair
San Diego Divisional Academic Senate

Attachment

cc: Akos Rona-Tas, Vice Chair, San Diego Divisional Academic Senate
Lori Hullings, Executive Director, San Diego Divisional Academic Senate
Monica Lin, Executive Director, UC Systemwide Academic Senate

November 24, 2025

PROFESSOR REBECCA JO PLANT, Chair
Academic Senate, San Diego Division

SUBJECT: Review of Revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Chair Plant,

At its November 20, 2025 meeting, the Campus Climate Change Committee (CCCC) reviewed the proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. CCCC did not endorse the proposed revisions due to several identified concerns which are outlined below:

1. The addition of item E to the 'New Buildings' section on Page 13 creates a major exception to the requirement in item D prohibiting onsite fossil fuel combustion and would allow the Board of Regents to approve projects that require new fossil fuel infrastructure. This revision conflicts with the UCOP goal to decarbonize the UC by 2045 as clearly outlined in the [Pathways to Fossil Free UC Taskforce](#) report.
2. The policy goal for the reduction of total emissions on Page 15 is currently 90% reduction in total emissions by 2045 relative to 2019 baseline. The timeline for decarbonization goals should be accelerated in order to position the UC as a leader in climate action. It is notable that UC campus carbon allowances under the CA cap and trade system will decline to almost zero by 2040. Since offsets are not a viable option, this suggests that 2040, not 2045, is the practical upper limit for completion of UC decarbonization. The policy should acknowledge this and encourage campuses to accelerate their decarbonization targets in alignment with relevant state and local decarbonization goals.
3. It is unclear why the statement "Given the urgency of the climate crisis, locations will set the most aggressive targets feasible. Both collectively and individually; all locations will work to secure funding to meet targets" was removed on Page 16, particularly given the urgency of climate action. The removal may suggest reduced institutional support for decarbonization. This statement should remain to convey that decarbonization remains a top priority for UC and campus administration.
4. The revision to the sustainable transportation section represents a regrettable diminution in ambition regarding Scope 3 emissions reduction. While we acknowledge the complexity of the issues, we urge UCOP to develop realistic policies to tackle commuting and aviation emissions, in collaboration with the GCLC that is focusing on this issue this year.

Sincerely,

Kina Thackray
Chair
Campus Climate Change Committee

cc: Akos Rona-Tas, Senate Vice Chair
Lori Hullings, Senate Executive Director
Jenna Coomer, Senior Senate Analyst

November 3, 2025

PROFESSOR REBECCA JO PLANT, Chair
Academic Senate, San Diego Division

SUBJECT: Review of the Proposed Revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

At its October 15, 2025 meeting, the Committee on Campus and Community Environment (CCCE) reviewed the proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. The Committee had no objections to the proposal. The Committee offered the following comments for consideration:

- The Committee notes that the document lists 2025 as the target year for numerous action items (e.g., pages 12, 13, 17, 22, 26, 42, 43, and 46). Unless the objective is to show that targets are already not being met, CCCE recommends revising these dates to reflect more realistic and achievable timelines.
- In numerous instances, items pertaining to “Health care” have been removed throughout the document, creating the impression that health care operations are exempt from certain provisions of the policy. It is unclear whether these are intentional changes. For instance:
 - On page 2 (Policy Summary), health care appears to be exempted.
 - Similar issues appear on page 5 (Definitions); page 11 (Building Renovations); and pages 11 – 12 (Clean Energy), where health location references seem to have been removed.
- CCCE members suggest that clarification is provided on the rationale for relocating the “Climate Action Plans” from Section III (Policy Text on page 13) to Section V (Procedures on page 34). Understanding the reasoning behind this structural change would be helpful. The Committee’s perception was that provisions regarding “Climate Action Plans” may have been substantially watered down. For example, there are no longer due dates mentioned.
- The Committee recommends providing additional context for the removal of the list of housing-related recommendations beginning on the bottom of page 36. The list of mechanisms for reducing transportation was quite important as the Committee is concerned about how the campus is increasing enrollments but not capacity – e.g., people drive to campus because there is not enough affordable housing.
- CCCE further recommends that enrollment goals be considered in discussions about updates to the Policy, and that the influence of current budget conditions on the proposed revisions be addressed.

Sincerely,

Simeon Nicter, Chair
Committee on Campus and Community Environment

cc: J. Coomer, Senior Senate Analyst
K. Ni, Committee on Campus and Community Environment
L. Hullings, Senate Executive Director
A. Rona-Tas, Senate Vice Chair

November 25, 2025

PROFESSOR REBECCA JO PLANT, Chair
Academic Senate, San Diego Division

SUBJECT: Review of Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Chair Plant,

At its November 19, 2025 meeting, the Committee on Faculty Welfare (CFW) reviewed the proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. From CFW's perspective, the proposed sustainability revisions raise important concerns about both clarity and their practical effects on faculty working conditions. Faculty note that the policy does not fully address UC's substantial fossil-fuel emissions and includes inconsistent language regarding biomethane, carbon offsets, and clean electricity. These inconsistencies make it difficult to assess whether UC is taking meaningful steps away from fossil-fuel reliance. CFW also recognizes that faculty strongly support accelerated climate action, as demonstrated by the 2022 Fossil Memorial, which reflected clear faculty intent to reduce on-campus fossil-fuel combustion by sixty percent from baseline levels by 2030, yet the proposed policy still leaves open the possibility of substantial fossil-fuel use well beyond that timeline.

While the updated policy modernizes several processes, such as oversight of natural-gas projects, building-monitoring requirements, and transportation guidance, it also introduces questions about how these changes will affect reliable campus infrastructure, commuting needs, clinical environments, research continuity, administrative workload, and departmental budgets. CFW is concerned about whether implementation will be supported with adequate resources, whether divisional autonomy will be preserved, and whether the impacts will be equitable across campus. In light of these issues, CFW encourages further revision to the policy to provide clearer definitions, strengthen commitments where appropriate, remove contradictory language, and ensure that sustainability efforts enhance rather than complicate the welfare of faculty across the system.

The Committee offered the following comments on specific concerns for consideration.

1. Fossil Infrastructure and Energy Reliability

- The policy does not clearly define “natural gas infrastructure,” and requiring Regents’ approval for large gas projects suggests fossil expansion remains possible and leaves ambiguity about future campus reliability for labs, studios, and clinical spaces.

2. Biomethane, Biogas, and Carbon Offsets

- References to biomethane and biogas are inconsistent, creating confusion about whether UC still intends to use these as forms of carbon offsetting.
- The policy appears to eliminate offsets, but later sections reintroduce them; clearer articulation of UC’s commitments is needed.

3. Clean Electricity Claims and Research Implications

- Claims of “100 percent clean electricity” appear overstated given limited on-site renewable generation and reliance on distant power-purchase agreements.
- Ambiguity about energy sources raises concerns about how high-demand research environments will be supported as they transition from fossil-fuel dependence.

4. Transportation, Commuting, and Equity

- Concrete electric-vehicle targets have been replaced with vague language, leaving unclear how UC plans to electrify its fleets and buses.
- Commute-reduction strategies could disproportionately affect faculty who depend on driving because of caregiving responsibilities, mobility needs, or long-distance housing.

5. UC Health and Clinical Operations

- Folding UC Health requirements into general policy sections may obscure the distinct operational and regulatory demands of clinical environments.
- The lack of tailored guidance raises concerns about whether sustainability expectations are realistic for energy-intensive medical settings.

6. Food-Waste Emissions and Other Overlooked Sources

- Significant emissions from food waste are not addressed, and it is unclear whether biodigestors or other mitigation systems are in use.
- Persistent single-use plastics on campus, despite stated prohibitions, raise questions about the policy’s implementation capacity.

7. Administrative Burden and Resource Support

- New monitoring, reporting, and compliance processes may increase workload for faculty and for departments that are already operating with limited staff.

8. Governance, Autonomy, and Budget Implications

- Emphasis on systemwide uniformity raises concerns about reduced campus autonomy and potential impacts on departmental budgets, research facilities, and recharge rates.

9. Additional Perspectives

Some committee members wished to emphasize a broader concern: that the policy, even with revisions, does not reflect the level of urgency that faculty have previously endorsed. These members also felt that, while campus autonomy is important, the University should be able to articulate clear systemwide goals for reducing greenhouse-gas emissions and pollution, consistent with the University’s stated commitments since the launch of the carbon-neutrality initiative in 2013. They observed that earlier systemwide strategies, which relied on offsets, biomethane, and claims of clean electricity, did not meaningfully reduce on-campus combustion, and that more recent steps, including the thirteen million dollars allocated by the Office of the President in 2023 for electrification planning across all ten campuses, reflect an institutional recognition that these earlier approaches were insufficient. From this perspective, leaving decarbonization primarily to local discretion risks slowing progress and limiting the

ability of the San Diego campus to contribute meaningfully to systemwide reductions. These members expressed a desire for stronger commitments to rapid decarbonization and clearer alignment between university climate goals, faculty expectations, and long-term planning.

Sincerely,

Amy Adler
Chair
Committee on Faculty Welfare

cc: Akos Rona-Tas, Senate Vice Chair
Lori Hullings, Senate Executive Director
Jenna Coomer, Senior Senate Analyst
Jeffrey Clemens, Vice Chair, Committee on Faculty Welfare

December 1, 2025

REBECCA JO PLANT, Chair
Academic Senate, San Diego Division

SUBJECT: Review of Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

The Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) discussed the Review of Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices at their November 18, 2025 meeting. While the Committee generally supports the revisions to the policy, CPB submits the following questions and comments for consideration:

- CPB supports the intent of mandating a one-year MBCx period after occupancy with permanent metering for all new and major renovation project, but recommends clear guidance on budgeting and staffing for this additional phase.
- CPB requests clarification on whether establishing a campus-funded carbon-price mechanism of \$25 per metric ton CO₂e (+ 5 % annually) through 2030 will be a central or distributed cost, and how funds will be reinvested?
- CPB supports allowing campuses to revise emission-reduction targets periodically and replaces “carbon neutrality” language with a 90 % reduction by 2045 plus carbon-removal for residual emissions.
- Because these revisions disproportionately affect campuses operating combined-heat-and-power (CHP) or thermal-loop systems—UC San Diego, UCLA, UC Berkeley, and UC Irvine, CPB recommends that the UCSD Academic Senate encourage coordination with the other affected Senates through the Systemwide Academic Council or UCPB to present a unified faculty perspective on fiscal and operational implications.

Sincerely yours,

Oliver Schmidt, Chair
Committee on Planning and Budget

cc: J. Coomer
S. Ben-Haim
L. Hullings
A. Rona-Tas

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<https://senate.ucsf.edu>

Errol Lobo, MD, PhD, Chair
Marta Margeta, MD, PhD, Vice Chair
Kartika Palar, PhD, MA, Secretary
Spencer Behr, MD, Parliamentarian

December 10, 2025

Ahmet Palazoglu
Chair, Academic Council
Systemwide Academic Senate
University of California Office of the President
1111 Franklin St., 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607-5200

Re: Systemwide Senate Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Chair Palazoglu:

The San Francisco Division of the Academic Senate is pleased to provide comments on Systemwide Senate Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. The University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Academic Senate appreciates the opportunity to opine on this review updated by the Sustainability Steering Committee. One UCSF committee commented on this review – the Committee on Sustainability (SUST), which commends several aspects of the revised policy, including the removal of the Sustainability at UC Health section and its integration into relevant policy sections, ensuring consistent standards across campuses and health systems. Additionally, SUST made the following specific suggestions:

1. **Fluctuating targets:** SUST is concerned that the new provision allowing locations to update their interim Scope 1 greenhouse gas reduction targets at regular intervals (III.C.2.a) may allow campuses to flex their targets downward if they are unable to achieve their initial targets. SUST hopes that UC will hold campuses accountable to their targets and disallow revising their targets downward unless a clear justification is given.
2. **Single-occupancy vehicle reduction targets:** SUST was disappointed to see that numerical single-occupancy vehicle reduction targets were replaced with more general requirements for campuses to continue promoting trip reduction programs (III.D.2.b). As campuses continue to enforce the return-to-work guidelines, SUST believes that it is imperative that the policy aggressively advocate for reducing single-occupancy vehicle commuting.
3. **Harmful chemical reduction:** The Health and Well-Being sections of the policy (III.K and V.K) primarily focus on vending machines. SUST sees an opportunity to use these sections of the policy to provide broader guidance on limiting chemical exposures to trainees, faculty, and staff. SUST suggests comprehensively reducing exposure to harmful chemicals across campuses, particularly focusing on lecture halls, dormitories, food courts, and outdoor spaces since other similar policies neglect these particular locations. For instance, SUST advises the policy to recommend against using antibacterial hand soap in bathrooms as they are not recommended according to the 2016 FDA ruling¹.

¹ <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2016/09/02/492394717/fda-bans-19-chemicals-used-in-antibacterial-soaps>

4. **Food recovery programs:** SUST suggests strengthening the language around food recovery programs, because they are crucial to community members as is the need to reduce food waste. For instance, Section V.H.7 currently states “Campus Locations are encouraged to explore food recovery programs that can support campus basic needs programs,” that should instead read “Campus Locations should implement food recovery programs that can support campus basic needs programs.”
5. **Strained electricity capacities:** SUST is concerned that the increased use of both artificial intelligence tools and electric vehicles will put increased strain on campuses’ electricity capacities. SUST recommends including language on this topic in this policy in order to balance the benefits of artificial intelligence tools with the resulting consumption of resources.

Thank you for considering our comments. If you have any questions, please reach out to me or the UCSF Executive Director, Todd Giedt (todd.giedt@ucsf.edu).

Sincerely,

Errol Lobo, MD, PhD, 2025-27 Chair
UCSF Academic Senate

Enclosures (1)
Cc: Sandra Staveski, Chair, Committee on Sustainability (SUST)



Communication from the Committee on Sustainability

Sandra Staveski, PhD, RN, PNP, FAAN, Chair

December 3, 2025

TO: Errol Lobo, Chair of the UCSF Division of the Academic Senate

FROM: Sandra Staveski, Chair, UCSF Committee on Sustainability

CC: Todd Giedt, Executive Director of the UCSF Academic Senate Office

RE: Systemwide Senate Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Chair Lobo:

The Academic Senate Committee on Sustainability (SUST) writes to comment on the Systemwide Senate Review of the Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. Per its charge, SUST is supportive of efforts to require sustainable practices on UC campuses. SUST feels it is the University of California's responsibility to set an example among peer institutions in eliminating carbon emissions and boldly addressing the ongoing climate crisis.

SUST reviewed the proposed revisions to the Policy on Sustainable Practices closely. SUST supports many of the changes, particularly the change to remove the Sustainability at UC Health section and incorporate its policy elements within the relevant policy sections. SUST feels that UC should hold campuses and the health system to the same high standards of sustainable practices. Incorporating policies for the health system throughout the policy will make it easier to ensure that campuses and UC Health are expected to uphold similar policies and practices. SUST members were also encouraged to see that the policy continues to de-emphasize the use of carbon offsets in favor of direct carbon emissions reductions.

SUST does have a few recommendations regarding the revised policy:

1. SUST is concerned that the new provision allowing locations to update their interim Scope 1 greenhouse gas reduction targets at regular intervals (III.C.2.a) may allow campuses to flex their targets downward if they are unable to achieve their initial targets. SUST noted that language guiding campuses to set the most aggressive targets feasible was also removed from the same section. Because of the urgency of reducing fossil fuel emissions to avoid serious, irreversible consequences to the climate and human health, SUST hopes that UC will continue to expect campuses to set and achieve the most aggressive targets feasible. Campuses should not be allowed to revise their targets downward without a clear justification for why doing so is unavoidable, and downward revisions should be rare.
2. SUST was disappointed to see that numerical single-occupancy vehicle reduction targets were replaced with more general requirements for campuses to continue promoting trip reduction programs (III.D.2.b). Especially as campuses introduce return-to-work guidelines, SUST is concerned that single-occupancy vehicle trips remain a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. To ensure that campuses act definitively to reduce these trips, the policy should

continue to provide aggressive but achievable numerical goals for reducing single-occupancy vehicle commuting.

3. The Health and Well-Being sections of the policy (III.K and V.K) primarily focus on vending machines. SUST sees an opportunity to use these sections of the policy to provide broader guidance on limiting chemical exposures to trainees, faculty, and staff. The policy should recommend that UC campuses assess and avoid unnecessary exposures to health-harming chemicals among their community members. These recommendations should focus on minimizing exposures to harmful chemicals in such areas as lecture halls, dormitories, food courts, and outdoor spaces, as chemical exposures in research and clinical settings are already addressed by other UC policies. SUST recommends that UC refer to [California's Proposition 65 List](#) when identifying chemicals that should be reduced or eliminated to avoid unnecessary exposures. In particular, SUST advises that the policy should recommend against the use of antibacterial hand soap in campus bathrooms, as a [2016 FDA ruling](#) found that antibacterial soaps contain ingredients that are potentially harmful, with no evidence that antibacterial soap is more effective than plain soap.
4. SUST recommends strengthening the language around food recovery programs. Section V.H.7 currently states "Campus Locations are encouraged to explore food recovery programs that can support campus basic needs programs." Because of the critical importance of food recovery programs to community members and the need to reduce food waste, SUST recommends revising this language to "Campus Locations should implement food recovery programs that can support campus basic needs programs."
5. SUST is concerned that the increased use of both artificial intelligence tools and electric vehicles will put increased strain on campuses' electricity capacities. SUST encourages the policy writers to consider addressing these topics in the current or future revisions. In particular, systemwide guidance on balancing the benefits of artificial intelligence tools with the resulting consumption of resources would be helpful for UC faculty, trainees, and staff as these tools become increasingly ubiquitous.

SUST appreciates the opportunity to comment on this important policy. Please contact me or Academic Senate Analyst Liz Greenwood (liz.greenwood@ucsf.edu) if you have any questions on these comments.



UC SANTA BARBARA

Academic Senate
Rita Raley, Chair
Shasta Delp, Executive Director

1233 Girvetz Hall
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-3050
<http://www.senate.ucsb.edu>

December 8, 2025

To: Ahmet Palazoglu, Chair
Academic Senate

From: Rita Raley, Divisional Chair
Academic Senate

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rita Raley".

Re: Proposed Revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

The Santa Barbara Division distributed the Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices to the the Council on Planning and Budget (CPB), Council on Faculty Welfare, Academic Freedom, and Awards (CFW), the Graduate Council (GC), the Undergraduate Council (UgC), the Committee on Research Policy and Procedures (CRPP), the Committee on Library, Information, and Instructional Resources (CLIIR), and the Faculty Executive Committees (FECs) of the College of Letters and Science (L&S), College of Engineering (COE), College of Creative Studies (CCS), Gevirtz Graduate School of Education (GGSE), and the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management (BREN). CPB, CFW, GC, UgC, CLIIR, and the CCS and Bren FECs elected not to opine.

All of the agencies' individual responses are attached for consideration. We highlight the L&S FEC's concern that the financial implications of these policy revisions remain unspecified, presenting particular risk to campuses, like ours, that are managing both extensive deferred maintenance obligations and structural deficits.

Academic Senate
Santa Barbara Division

December 2, 2025

To: Rita Raley, Divisional Chair
Academic Senate

From: David Valentine, Chair *David Valentine*
Committee on Research Policy and Procedures

Re: Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

At its meeting of November 14, 2025, the Committee on Research Policy and Procedures (CRPP) discussed the proposed revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. The committee is primarily concerned that the policy does not specifically cover energy use from artificial intelligence, which is rapidly expanding and highly energy-intensive.

CC: Shasta Delp, Executive Director, Academic Senate

SANTA BARBARA
Faculty Executive Committee
The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering

November 19, 2025

TO: Rita Raley
Divisional Chair, Academic Senate

FROM: Arpit Gupta, Vice Chair
College of Engineering, Faculty Executive Committee

RE: Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

DocuSigned by:

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The College of Engineering FEC met on November 18th and discussed the proposed policy changes. The committee agreed that the policy seems reasonable and did not voice objections.

UC SANTA BARBARA

Faculty Executive Committee
Gevirtz Graduate School of Education

December 1, 2025

To: Rita Raley
Chair, Executive Council

From: Tim Dewar
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, GGSE

DocuSigned by:

Tim Dewar

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Re: Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

To whom it may concern,

The FEC of the GGSE supports the policy changes but note, diversity, equity, inclusion are mentioned in the policy summary. While we support these efforts, we understand the targeted effort to these terms by external organizations. We would be disappointed if this policy is affected by this.

November 12, 2025

To: Rita Raley
Chair, Divisional Academic Senate

From: Claudio Campagnari
Chair, L&S Faculty Executive Committee



Re: Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

At its meeting on November 5, 2025, the Faculty Executive Committee of the College of Letters and Science (FEC) reviewed proposed revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. The proposed revisions to the focus on updating the Green Building, Clean Energy, Climate Action, and Sustainable Transportation elements of the policy.

While agreeing that the included additions to the sustainability policy represent worthy goals to pursue, our committee observes the lack of detail around financial impacts to campuses that will be required to follow the new policies, and has particular concern regarding the impact to campuses in a heightened states of disrepair such as UC Santa Barbara. Understanding this potential impact is particularly important in the current tenuous budget situation the UC campuses find themselves in.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

cc: Michael Miller, AVC and Dean of Undergraduate Education
Charlie Hale, Dean of Social Sciences
Daina Ramey Berry, Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts
Shelly Gable, Dean of Science

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Office of the Academic Senate
SANTA CRUZ DIVISION
125 CLARK KERR HALL
(831) 459 - 2086

December 9, 2025

AHMET PALAZOGLU
Chair, Academic Council

RE: Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Ahmet,

The Santa Cruz Division of the Academic Senate has completed its review of the proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices with the Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) responding. CPB supports the sustainability goals expressed in the policy but does so with some underlying concerns regarding how this policy can be implemented across the system equitably.

Of most concern, the current policy does not provide systemwide cost data on the true fiscal burden to campuses in implementing the Monitoring-Based Commissioning (MBCx). Without this crucial information we cannot adequately assess the burden placed on campuses that have limited capital project infrastructure. This is critically important for Santa Cruz, as our unmet capital need balance, in particular for critical infrastructure maintenance, is extremely large relative to our central resources, and currently exacerbated by our structural deficit.

CPB notes that the policy does appropriately focus on new construction and major renovations, however, CPB also emphasizes that the policy should make explicit that these standards should not be extended to existing buildings given current budget constraints.

CPB further suggests that the requirement for an annual commuter survey could add additional costs and prove particularly burdensome for campuses experiencing fiscal challenges such as UC Santa Cruz. CPB suggests that this requirement would be easier to meet if it is required less frequently, such as every other year.

Finally, CPB recommends that flexibility in the timing and implementation of the policy should be added in clear language, to allow for campus-specific budget limitations.

On behalf of the Santa Cruz Division, I thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this policy.

Yours Sincerely,



Matthew D. McCarthy, Chair
Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

cc: Raphael Kudela, Chair, Committee on Planning and Budget
Enrico Ramirez-Ruiz, Chair, Committee on Development and Fundraising
Nirvikar Singh, Chair, Committee on Research
Matthew Mednick, Executive Director, Academic Senate



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Academic Senate

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UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH POLICY (UCORP)

James Weatherall, Chair
Email: james.owen.weatherall@uci.edu

December 10, 2025

AHMET PALAZOGLU
CHAIR, ACADEMIC COUNCIL

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RE: Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Chair Palazoglu,

UCORP discussed the Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices at its meeting on November 10th. UCORP members noted that emerging research and teaching tools, particularly involving artificial intelligence and high-performance computing, are highly resource-intensive, but often rely on off-campus facilities whose environmental impact does not appear to be captured in the current report. We suggest that in future years, methods be developed to assess how adoption of these technologies contributes to the overall sustainability of UC activities.

Sincerely,

James Weatherall
Chair, University Committee on Research Policy



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UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND BUDGET (UCPB)

Robert Brosnan
rjbrosnan@ucdavis.edu

December 5, 2025

Ahmet Palazoglu
Chair, Academic Council

RE: Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Ahmet,

The University Committee on Planning and Budget (UCPB) discussed this proposed policy at their December meeting. The committee supports the UC priority of moving always toward more sustainable practices. Members did express some concerns about the timing of this effort. They questioned the wisdom of mandated targets without state funding in a time of extreme funding shortfalls. If the university must choose between teaching missions, research missions, and emission reduction dates, it seems clear that the first two need to take precedence for any available funding. If this policy is to go forward as proposed, seeking line-item funding from the legislature for it seems prudent.

The policy claims that “Locations will achieve at least a 90% reduction in total emissions (Scopes 1, 2, and 3) by no later than calendar year 2045 relative to a 2019 baseline year” (p. 12). Without identification of funding to support this effort, this risks becoming an unfunded mandate.

The committee hoped that the healthy vending policy will be monitored to ensure that it does not increase food waste and decrease revenues. This effort may also represent more staff time, increasing costs without concomitant funding.

Members wondered if “If eligible, all new buildings and major renovations (as defined in III.A) will register with the local utility’s energy efficiency programs to get the financial resources needed to meet the University’s aggressive efficiency targets and to document compliance with the requirement to outperform CBC energy efficiency standards by at least 20%” applied to buildings such as barns, storage areas, and temporary construction. Is this a departure from current approaches? What costs will this add to instructional or research facilities, and how will any increased costs be met?

“Decisions affecting energy efficiency, fossil fuel use, and connection to existing central thermal services will be made in the context of the location’s climate action plan. Where on-site fossil fuel combustion within the building is deemed necessary, the rationale for this decision will be documented as part of the existing project approval process” (p. 25). Virtually all laboratory areas require piping of natural gas for burners. This means almost all research facilities will need to undergo this review. What is the added cost of review, and what added delay? In addition, back-up gas-powered generators are essential for all medical facilities, animal vivaria, and some critical research infrastructure. Would requiring a special approval process for these essential uses increase costs and project delays? Such an obvious need for gas supplies and gas-burning utilities should receive automatic exemptions from these policies, which would present a more efficient use of personnel time.

For buildings that are found to be out of compliance, based on “Locations will demonstrate compliance based on the results of energy modeling that represents a best estimate of as-operated, whole-building energy use, before accounting for on-site energy generation. Targets are intended to be verifiable in actual operation following building occupancy” (p. 26), will campuses be liable for resulting unfunded expenses? If so, where will funding to address the compliance issue be found?

UCPB supports efforts to collect data to guide university decisions. However, the requirement that locations (not LBNL) “require all strategically sourced suppliers to report annually on their sustainable business operations and quarterly on the University’s sustainable purchasing activity. Quarterly spend reports will be collected by the appropriate University of California Procurement Services department” (p. 36) leads to questions about the follow-on for this collection. Will costs of this reporting lead to increased costs for locations? Perhaps fewer suppliers will be willing to take this task on, reducing competition for lower prices.

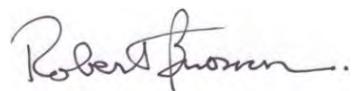
Another monitoring and reporting requirement, “All Campus and Health Location foodservice operations should track and report annually the percentage of total annual food budget spent on sustainable food and plant-based products” (p. 38). Who at the UC needs this data? What will this information lead to? The committee is concerned that this creates one more monitoring/reporting burden and expense without funding. In addition, the water reporting asked for on p. 39 raises the same questions of purpose and impact.

UCPB is proud of the UC’s commitment to more sustainable practices. Prior to endorsement, UCPB agreed that a thorough analysis of the proposal should be conducted by the UCOP Finance Office to assess the initial and downstream costs and savings associated with various proposals, to understand how proposals would be funded, and to weigh opportunity costs/benefits of pursuing actions within the proposed timeframe. The leadership of the university in this area cannot create burdens without

benefits, especially now when campuses report structural deficits and resources are being stripped from the UC at every turn.

Thank you for the opportunity for the committee to respond to this policy proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Brosnan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Robert" on the top line and "Brosnan" on the bottom line.

Robert Brosnan
Chair

cc: UCPB



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Academic Senate

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UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON FACULTY WELFARE
KAREN BALES, CHAIR

December 10, 2025

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AHMET PALAZOGLU
CHAIR, ACADEMIC COUNCIL

RE: Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Chair Palazoglu,

The University Committee on Faculty Welfare (UCFW) has completed its portion of the systemwide review of the Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices, and we support the revisions. We appreciate the nuanced approach the policy adopts regarding the national labs and the division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and we find the monitoring requirements to be specific and appropriate, and in many cases, better than industry standards. We also appreciate the improvements to the commuter provisions.

Sincerely,

Karen L. Bales

Karen Bales, UCFW Chair

Cc: Academic Council Vice Chair Susannah Scott
Senate Executive Director Monica Lin
UCFW Members