



1111 Franklin Street  
Oakland, CA 94607-5200  
Phone: (510) 987-9074  
<http://www.ucop.edu>

December 13, 2019

ACADEMIC COUNCIL CHAIR BHAVNANI

Dear Kum-Kum:

I am pleased to offer my support of the November 2019 Senate *Principles and Recommendations For Addressing the Climate Change Challenge*. As you know, all ten UC Chancellors and I recently signed a climate emergency declaration letter that recognizes “the need for a drastic societal shift to combat the growing threat of climate change.” In doing so, we agreed to a three-point plan that includes increasing action-oriented climate research, expanding education and outreach on environmental and sustainability issues, and achieving climate neutrality. Partnership with the Academic Senate and your proposed mobilization of faculty engagement will be fundamental to achieving those goals.

In response to your recommendations:

1. I welcome the Council’s commitment to deploying the faculty’s expertise to meet the critical objective of carbon neutrality and decarbonization. I especially encourage faculty to support continued development and implementation of each campus’s climate action plan which can benefit from engagement of faculty to bring creative solutions for carbon neutrality measures and help build support within the campus community.

As one step in this direction, the University’s Global Climate Leadership Council (GCLC) will expand to increase Senate-appointed faculty on GCLC from two to four or five, with the goal of increasing the disciplinary diversity (faculty from the humanities and social sciences) and the gender and racial diversity of the GCLC membership.

2. I support exploring the recommendation to form a systemwide Senate work group and equivalent campus-based working groups to increase faculty engagement in addressing the challenge of climate change. I welcome the additional guidance and faculty engagement that this committee structure would provide. The GCLC’s working groups, in particular the Applied Research and Faculty Engagement and Education working groups, would benefit from a deepened partnership with the Academic Senate.
3. I commend the Senate’s call to mobilize deployment of “climate champions” and multi-, cross-, and trans-disciplinary teams to communicate the urgency of decarbonization to

Academic Council Chair Bhavnani  
December 13, 2019  
Page 2

both internal UC and external audiences. UC's leadership in research and teaching, and its considerable operational experience in climate action, must be shared with professional and lay community networks as part of our climate solutions leadership.

Let me take this opportunity to laud the dedicated efforts of the University Committee on Research Policy, the Academic Council, and faculty and staff champions in the conceptualization, consultative engagement, and establishment of this important resolution.

The Academic Senate Resolution now before us charts the course for critical collaboration across the system. Together, we are well-poised to achieve institutional carbon neutrality and deep decarbonization, and to scale UC's achievements and solutions to California and the world.

Yours very truly,



Janet Napolitano  
President

cc: Provost Brown  
Director of Sustainability St.Clair  
Professor Bales  
Academic Council  
Chairs of Systemwide Senate Committees  
Senate Directors