UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, ACADEMIC SENATE

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Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate
Faculty Representative to the Regents
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

January 27, 2023

DOUGLAS HAYNES, VICE PROVOST
ACADEMIC PERSONNEL & PROGRAMS

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

Dear Vice Provost Haynes:

As requested, I distributed for systemwide Senate review a set of proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. All ten Academic Senate divisions and three systemwide committees (UCFW, BOARS, and UCIE) submitted comments. These comments were discussed at Academic Council's January 25 meeting and are attached for your reference. The following summary captures several main themes from the Senate review, but we encourage you to review the letters closely for additional details.

We understand that the revisions are intended to strengthen the University's sustainability policies, goals, and procedures by updating the policy sections on Green Building Design, Climate Protection, Zero Waste, Sustainable Foodservice, and Health and Well-Being. The revisions include raising the minimum green building certification for new buildings from LEED Silver to LEED Gold, accelerating the target date for achieving carbon neutrality for Scope 3 emissions from 2050 to 2045, adding new sustainability goals for UC Health, adding plant-based food procurement targets for dining services, improving the sustainability of machine-vended food and beverages, and making other minor revisions to the policy for enhanced clarity and readability.

The attached letters include commentary about both the specific proposed revisions and the larger existing policy framework. Note that many comments about the existing policy echo the Senate's December 2021 comments about the last revision of this policy. In general, faculty consider the latest revisions to include positive (albeit very modest) steps toward stronger sustainability policies and practices. Faculty reviewers also noted several elements of the revisions that are unclear or need additional consideration. The letters also include many detailed comments and suggestions from campus climate activists who believe the overall policy does not sufficiently address UC's responsibilities around the climate crisis or set aggressive enough targets for eliminating campus use of fossil fuels.

As you know, the Academic Senate review follows a June 2022 Senate Memorial to the Regents on Reducing Fossil Fuel Consumption[1] that was supported by 85% of Senate faculty who voted. The Memorial petitions the Regents for "investments in UC's infrastructure that will reduce on-campus fossil fuel combustion by at least 60% of current levels by 2030 and by 95% of current levels by 2035." Many faculty reviewed the revisions to the policy with the Memorial in mind, and their letters reflect an expectation that the University will adopt the goals of the Memorial more formally in policy.

Lack of Budget Analysis: Several reviewers observed that the policy lacks a budget analysis of the policy revisions, which makes it difficult to assess the costs associated with individual changes. For example, the policy calls for building design to achieve a minimum LEED Gold certification for new buildings "whenever possible within the constraints of program needs and budget parameters." However, it is unclear how this goal could affect capital costs and funding available for retrofitting non-energy-efficient buildings and other deferred maintenance needs. The policy also calls for increasing plant-based food service to 25-30% of food procurement; however, it is unclear if this goal will be tracked by volume, purchase cost, or some other measurement, and there is no discussion of waste estimates from this increase. Such details should be clarified, if possible, to help readers weigh the pros and cons of the revisions.

We suggest including in future renditions of the policy cost estimates for each of the listed goals and their expected economic impact on the University. For example, tiered cost estimates of building design would help show the investments needed to build new facilities of a given size at various LEED certification levels and the proportional cost for a facility to move from Gold to Platinum LEED certification. A tiered cost estimate for sustainable food services would show the estimated cost of existing menus compared to more sustainable or plant-based menus.

Carbon Offsets: Many Senate faculty remain deeply skeptical about the policy's emphasis on carbon offsets and biogas as long-term sustainability strategies, and think the University should focus sustainability efforts on reducing carbon emissions from campus heating and electrical systems, which account for most of UC's direct emissions, and through electrification of the campuses. It seems that the policy's emphasis on carbon neutrality is out of date and out of step with the reality on the ground on campuses, where there has been a material shift in focus and effort away from climate neutrality goals to decarbonization goals instead. The policy should do more to acknowledge this shift and adopt goals for achieving zero emissions on a timeline consistent with current scientific guidelines. The policy should also incorporate, or at least acknowledge, the goals of the June 2022 Senate Memorial. One suggestion for doing this is to modify bullet point 7 of the Climate Protection section to establish 2035 as the goal for completing each campus's electrification transition, rather than merely completing decarbonization studies that are already underway.

Other Comments:

- The policy should set goals related to the expansion of cost-effective upgrades to the heating, cooling, and lighting systems of existing buildings, including insulation improvements and energy generation systems such as solar panels.

[1] https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/reports/rh-md-senate-memorial-on-reducing-fossil-fuel-combustion.pdf

- The policy should do more to emphasize reducing single-occupancy vehicle commuting and incentivizing green transportation alternatives, including bicycling, carpooling, and public transportation, and additional charging infrastructure for electric vehicles.
- The policy includes no justification for delaying by three years the stated targets for eliminating single-use plastics in food service. Several reviewers expressed concern about this change and ask the University to maintain its existing and more ambitious goals around zero plastics.
- The policy should include procedures for two new forms of environmental impact accounting that 1) count the social costs of carbon in all infrastructure planning, and 2) count carbon emissions from new building construction**.** A plan should be provided for minimizing such emissions.
- In addition to adding language on climate justice, the policy should be clear about and commit to ending the environmental injustices committed upon marginalized communities in California who suffer the health disparities of fossil fuel extraction.

In sum, the revised policy includes positive additions, but its goals and targets are too modest to address the climate crisis and it overemphasizes carbon neutrality in ways that are out of step with current planning for reducing fossil fuel usage at the University. The policy would need a substantial overhaul to reflect the actual status of campus efforts and UC's accelerated goals for decarbonization. A strong sustainability policy provides UC with an opportunity to demonstrate global leadership in environmental stewardship by adopting innovative approaches and meaningful goals. UC faculty can advise on how faculty research can be leveraged to address sustainability problems and to assess the University's progress toward its goals. The Senate looks forward to working with administrative bodies such as the Sustainability Steering Committee and the new Fossil Free UC Task Force to craft a policy that better reflects the University's accelerated goals and the urgency of the climate crisis.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Susan Cochran, Chair
Academic Council

Cc: CFO Brostrom
Director & Chief Sustainability Officer St. Clair
Academic Council
Campus Senate Executive Directors
Executive Director Lin
Encl.

ACADEMIC SENATE
BERKELEY
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,

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

ACADEMIC SENATE
BERKELEY
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

Attachment 1

ACADEMIC SENATE
BERKELEY
320 STEPHENS HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

December 7, 2021

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

ACADEMIC SENATE
BERKELEY
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 McGarrahan, 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.
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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.

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[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

ACADEMIC SENATE
BERKELEY

320 STEPHENS HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

December 7, 2021

ROBERT HORWITZ
Chair, Academic Council

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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:

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Professor of Chemistry
Professor of Earth and Planetary Science
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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

ACADEMIC SENATE
BERKELEY
320 STEPHENS HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

November 24, 2021

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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

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

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(530) 752-2220
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January 18, 2023

Susan Cochran
Chair, Academic Council

RE: Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Susan,

The proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices were forwarded to all standing committees of the Davis Division of the Academic Senate. Five committees responded: 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), and the School of Nursing (SON).

Committees support the goals and values of the policy and proposed revisions. Committees also offered detailed comments to strengthen the policy and clarify policy costs, food service goals, and climate policy goals. A summary of comments follows, but we encourage Senate leaders and the policy holders to read the comments in their entirety.

CPB focused on the policy's relationship with facilities and administration (F&A) costs. Rising F&A costs have placed burdens on faculty and affected lab facilities adversely. CPB notes that, as in the prior review of this policy, it is still unclear "what budget analyses were conducted to understand the potential economic impact of [the proposed] policy revisions." CPB also raised concerns about funding and design for LEED certified buildings, noting that the buildings' narrower range of air handling have been less flexible to stressors like wildfire smoke and airborne illnesses, leading to hidden costs in addition to the upfront costs of sustainability. CPB is also concerned that ensuring LEED gold for new buildings could result in less available funding for retrofitting non-energy efficient buildings and other deferred maintenance needs.

CPB and CAES both raised questions and concerns about increasing plant-based food products from 25 to 30% of food procurement. It is unclear if this goal is tracked by volume, purchase cost, or some other measurement, and there is no discussion of waste estimates from this increase. Likewise, increasing healthier, perishable food in vending machines, while laudable, could also increase food waste if not accompanied by health education and promotion campaigns to increase demand for those offerings.

Lastly, CBS focused heavily on the policy's relationship with UC climate goals, including goals put forth by the Senate-wide memorial conducted in 2022. CBS discusses goals toward zero emissions,

removing policy focus on on-site carbon capture, reconsidering hydrogen or synthetic methane injections, and replacing the term “natural gas” with more accurate terminology. We noticed that the cover letter for the proposed policy revisions states that the “working group responsible for the Climate Protection policy section and a new systemwide task force are specifically looking at UC's climate protection targets and pathways to a fossil free UC. Their recommendations will be reflected in future policy updates.” We therefore ask the working group to consider CBS’ comments during that review.

The Davis Division appreciates the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Ahmet Palazoglu
Chair, Davis Division of the Academic Senate
Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering
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

January 10, 2023

Ahmet Palazoglu
Chair, Davis Division of the Academic Senate

RE: Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

The Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) has reviewed and discussed the Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices (dated October 12, 2022). Last committee year (2021-22), the CPB reviewed proposed revisions to this policy and provided feedback through the Request for Consultation (RFC) process.

While the CPB is very supportive of the sustainable values that this policy promotes, the committee is also seriously concerned about rising facilities and administration (F&A) costs that have placed significant burdens on faculty. The unsustainable trajectory of these costs has negatively impacted – and will continue to negatively impact – the ability of faculty to perform the world-class research that is expected at the University of California. These increased F&A costs have amounted to opportunity losses for the university, as faculty who are unable to renovate their labs in timely and cost-effective ways are either recruited away from the university or remain in substandard facilities that cannot perform the cutting-edge research that comes with significant extramural funding.

The CPB therefore offers the following comments for further consideration:

1. To reiterate a point that the CPB made in our previous response, it is still unclear what budget analyses were conducted to understand the potential economic impact of such policy revisions. The CPB understands that F&A costs are more expensive at the University of California because of the values the institution holds, but such policy revisions should not be made without due consideration of the effects they will have on faculty being able to perform a core part of the institution's mission.
2. In addition to concern about the increased costs associated with these policy revisions, there is a related issue of "resiliency." For example, LEED certified buildings have a narrow range of air handling design (e.g., no windows that open, recirculating most of the air, etc.). When we have had stressors – like smoke and airborne illnesses – our building designs are less flexible as a result of the energy-reducing initiatives. Thus, there are other hidden costs in addition to the upfront costs of sustainability. To what extent are these other costs factored in and considered?
3. Will money diverted to ensuring LEED gold status result in less funding available for retrofitting non-energy-efficient buildings and further delay numerous deferred maintenance of buildings and animal facilities already on campus?
4. The "Sustainable Foodservice" goal indicates that plant-based food will be increased from 25% to 30%. What does this mean? Is this percent by volume or by purchase cost or by some other measurement? Other than meat and milk, all other food comes from plants, CPB doubts that milk and meat currently account for more than 70%of the food volume purchased by the University. Does the policy instead intend to write that unprocessed fruit, vegetable, and whole-grain offerings would be increased to 30%? Some clarity is needed.
5. In the "Health and Well-Being" section, the policy proposes including healthier food options in vending machines. This is laudable but should be accompanied by health education/promotion measures to increase demand for these offerings from vending machines. Otherwise, there will

potentially be increased volume of spoiled fresh, healthy food in the vending machines. Increased food waste would be counterproductive to sustainability goals.

CPB appreciates the opportunity to comment but also wants to highlight the importance of consulting faculty during the development of these policies, rather than simply through the RFC process, to better understand the impacts of such policies on research.

Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

FEC: College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Committee Response

January 11, 2023

The Faculty Executive Committee of College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences reviewed the Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. The committee appreciates the opportunity to comment on the program and supports the revisions in general. However, several members of the committee also raised concerns on the changes to sustainable foodservices. Overall, the FEC would like to see more baseline data and get a better understanding of the desired goals. Here are the questions.

1. What is the current procurement status of “sustainable food products” at UC, and how will the metrics for food sustainability be set up and improved with the proposed target for UC locations to procure 25% plant-based food by 2030 and strive to procure 30%?
2. The “plant based foods” are more perishable and could cause more food losses and wastes than processed ones. Is there an estimate of waste resulting from this change to 25%-30%?
3. The “plant based foods” are mostly carbohydrate (sugar) based. Will this change the general nutritional composition of foods offered, or their affordability, and is this a concern?
4. A comprehensive economic and environmental assessment on the practice might be necessary.

November 30, 2022

Ahmet Palazoglu
Chair, Davis Division of the Academic Senate

RE: Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Ahmet:
The College of Biological Sciences Faculty Executive Committee reviewed this report on the ASIS whiteboard. We also consulted with Professor Mark Huising, the college climate champion. Several important comments were made regarding the scope of the current Policy, which we think are worth incorporating into the Academic Senate response.

- Continued adherence to any language that describes goals in terms of 'climate neutrality' policies. Offsets of a quality that this policy claims to strive for do not scale to the size of our collective UC wide emissions. Instead of focusing on offsetting, this policy should adopt policy goals to achieve zero emissions on a timeline consistent with what current scientific guidelines. The 6th assessment reports by the UN Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (here) and the California Fourth Climate Assessment (here)/Indicators of Climate Change in California (here) are science based, co-written by UC scientists and should guide UC's own policy.

- The sustainability policy should adopt the Senate Wide Memorial - supported overwhelmingly by UC faculty in mid-2022 - that each UC campus commits to reducing its scope 1 emissions to 60% of 2019 levels by 2030 and 95% by 2035. Instead, the policy states (p29 of 46) that 'each campus will complete an assessment of Scope1 emissions from fossil methane combustion by 2035 or at end of planned life' complete disregards what the Systemwide UC Senate Faculty directed UC leadership to do (95% reductions of scope 1 achieved by 2035). This UC policy is incompatible with the IPCC's 6th assessment WG3 conclusion that 'deep decarbonization is necessary within the next 3-5 years to stay within 1.5 degrees of global temperature change'.

- In that same paragraph: on-site carbon capture is a distraction. It is largely unproven, does not scale, and will like be orders of magnitude more expensive compared to simply avoiding the emissions by electrifying campuses. UC campuses emit large amounts of GHGs that can be fully avoided with today's technologies. Based on these technical and economic realities it will not contribute to any meaningful solution and its mention is best removed.

- Hydrogen or synthetic methane injections lead to gas mixtures that burn marginally cleaner. They are presented as more sustainable, but will prolong dependence on fossil gas. This locks UC into decades of continued dependence on the associated greenhouse gas emissions from combustion and fugitive emissions, which amount to 8-10% of fossil methane which has large short-term (decades) detrimental effect of global warming that make fossil gas no cleaner than coal.

- The sustainable buildings and Laboratory Operations for Campuses should direct campuses to make funding available to increase energy efficiency and of existing buildings and electrify their energy systems.

- Throughout this document ’natural gas’ should be replaced by either 'fossil methane’ (which will add CO2 equivalents to the atmosphere extract from long-term fossil deposits) or biogas (which may not). There is nothing ’natural’ about extracting fossilized hydrocarbons from the ground by fracking. In addition to adding language on climate justice, this document should be clear about and commit to ending the environmental injustices committed upon marginalized communities right here in California who suffer the health disparities of fossil fuel extraction in their back yards.

The College of Biological Sciences faculty appreciate the opportunity to comment.

John Albeck
Associate Professor
Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology
Davis, CA

Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

FEC: College of Letters and Science Committee Response

January 11, 2023

The committee is pleased to approve and that the university is supporting these goals.

Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

FEC: School of Nursing Committee Response

January 11, 2023

The SON FEC reviewed the material and supports the revisions made on the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices.

University of California, Irvine

Academic Senate
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(949) 824-7685
www.senate.uci.edu

January 18, 2023

Susan Cochran, Chair
Academic Council

Re: Systemwide Review of Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Chair Cochran,

The Irvine Division discussed the proposed revisions to the presidential policy on sustainable practices at its Cabinet meeting on January 17, 2023. The Council on Faculty Welfare, Diversity, and Academic Freedom (CFW) and Council on Planning and Budget (CPB) also reviewed the revisions. The committees' feedback is attached for your review.

While the Division appreciated the new goals and targets in the revisions, members also expressed disappointment that the UC has not reached some previous goals and that some targets, such as those related to single-use plastics, continue to be pushed back.

The Irvine Division appreciates the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Georg Striedter, Chair
Academic Senate, Irvine Division

Enclosures: CFW, CPB memos

Cc: Arvind Rajaraman, Chair Elect-Secretary
Jisoo Kim, Executive Director
Gina Anzivino, Associate Director

University of California, Irvine

Academic Senate
Council on Faculty Welfare, Diversity & Academic Freedom
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December 7, 2022

GEORG STREIDTER, CHAIR
ACADEMIC SENATE – IRVINE DIVISION

Re: Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Systemwide Senate Chair Susan Cochran distributed for systemwide review proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. The systemwide Sustainability Steering Committee reviews the policy annually for required updates and revisions. This year's changes include updates to some existing targets and some new requirements, as well as minor revisions to clarify intent and improve the readability of the policy.

The Council on Faculty Welfare, Diversity, and Academic Freedom (CFW) discussed the draft policy at its meeting on November 8, 2022. The Council submits the following comments:

1. Issues with the previous policy seems to have been addressed.
2. The Sustainable Practices draft policy outlines several aspirational goals for improvements across UC campuses. The key question seems to be: How effectively are these goals being implemented at each campus? It would be useful to know about the local working groups and their activities in implementing the plan at UCI.
3. This policy could also apply to the University Hills community.

Sincerely,

Lisa Naugle, Chair
Council on Faculty Welfare, Diversity, and Academic Freedom

C: Jisoo Kim, Executive Director
Academic Senate

Gina Anzivino, Associate Director
Academic Senate

Stephanie Makhlouf, Cabinet Analyst
Academic Senate

University of California, Irvine

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January 9, 2023

GEORG STRIEDTER, CHAIR
ACADEMIC SENATE, IRVINE DIVISION

RE: Systemwide Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

At its December 14, 2022 meeting, the Council on Planning and Budget (CPB) discussed the proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices.

Overall, the Council found the revisions to be laudable. However, without any kind of financial assessment, it is unclear whether the revisions are feasible in practice. The Council acknowledged that the benefits are not monetary. Nevertheless, given the context of current budget crisis, consideration of actual costs is essential for well-informed decision-making.

Detailed comments from the discussion are below:

Green Building Design:

- No assessment of financial impact is provided. While the goal of outperforming CBC standards is noble, it should not come at the cost of overstraining University and Campus resources. Moving forward, it would be helpful to accompany these evaluations with cost/benefit analyses, a description of how they fit within the University's long-term strategic planning and, possibly, references to how other institutions nationwide address similar issues.
- The 'Savings by Design Program' is now replaced by the 'California Energy Design Assistance Program'. Clarification is needed on why the University does not participate in the latter. (II. Definitions, Page 6)
- The policy states that, "All new buildings will at a minimum achieve a USGBC LEED 'Gold' certification. Additionally, whenever possible within the constraints of program needs and standard budget parameters, all new buildings will strive to achieve certification at a USGBC LEED 'Platinum'". The meaning of "program needs" should be clarified. Also, in what situations "standard budget parameters" may not be met? In addition, can something be said about the investment/cost saving associated with this code certification? (III. Policy Text, A. Green Building Design, 1. New Buildings, d, Page 9)
- The policy states that, "The University of California will design, construct, and commission new parking structures to achieve, at a minimum, Parksmart 'Silver' certification and strive to achieve 'Gold' whenever possible within the constraints of program needs and standard budget parameters". Language indicating how the improvements will affect parking costs for faculty, students, and staff – or not is needed. (III. Policy Text, A. Green Building Design, 1. New Buildings, e, Page 9)

Climate Protection:

- As stated earlier, it is important to align with State's goals, but what will be the cost/benefit to UC? How does this decision fit with a long-term strategic planning on carbon neutrality by the UCs?

Sustainable Food Services:

- The policy states that, "Each campus and health location will strive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions of their food purchases through globally-inspired, culturally acceptable plant-forward menus." Language indicating that the menus will not only be "globally-inspired, culturally-acceptable" and "plant-forward" but also nutritionally sound is necessary. (H. Sustainable Foodservices, 1. Campus and Health Location Foodservice Operations, c. Menu Development, Page 18)

Sustainability at UC Health:

- The policy states that, "Appliances and IT Hardware: In line with campus targets outlined in III.G.3 of this policy on Sustainable Procurement, appliances and IT hardware should meet the Required Level Green Spend. 25% of appliances and IT hardware should meet the Preferred Level Green Spend." Clarification on if this only applies to hospitals and other health-care facilities or includes academic departments within UC Health. If the latter, it is necessary to identify the funding strategy to implement the change and cost/benefit analysis – if available. (J. Sustainability at UC Health, 5. Sustainable Procurement, b, Page 20)

Health and Well-Being:

- There appears to be a typo: "By the end of 2022, the HCN will review the strengths and gaps in the UC Sustainable Practices Policy…" The correct term should be 2023. (L. Health and Well-Being, 1, Page 20)

The Council observed that it would be useful for future proposals to articulate tiered cost estimates for the revisions. For example, in terms of Green Building Design, there should be estimated costs for buildings of a certain size at various USGBC LEED certification levels. The tiers would indicate the proportional cost for a building to move from gold to platinum LEED certification. Similarly, for Sustainable Food Services, there should be an estimated cost of existing menus that serves as a baseline. Estimated costs of a more sustainable menu should be provided for relative comparison.

The Council appreciates the opportunity to comment.

On behalf of the Council,

Alyssa Brewer, Chair
Council on Planning and Budget

CC: Jisoo Kim, Executive Director, Academic Senate
Gina Anzivino, Associate Director, Academic Senate
Michelle Chen, CPB Analyst
Stephanie Makhlouf, Cabinet Analyst

UCLA Academic Senate
Executive Board

January 18, 2023

Susan Cochran
Chair, UC Systemwide Academic Senate

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

Dear Chair Cochran,

At the January 12, 2023, meeting of the Executive Board, members reviewed the proposed revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices, and the enclosed divisional committee and council responses. Members appreciated the opportunity to review the proposal and offered the following comments.

The Executive Board, like our committees, generally supported the revisions, though members with to highlight the suggestion of the Campus Response to the Climate Crisis special committee letter on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Consistent with our divisional letters about last year's policy revisions, and aligned with last year's Senate Memorial, members urged the next round of revisions to consider seriously the value of offsets in the context of climate actions. The use of offsets may not be the most effective way to achieve sustainability. Instead, the focus should be on decarbonization to meet goals on reduction of carbon emissions. One member suggested looking at net carbon strategies for industry and supported the use of offsets.

Sincerely,

Jessica Cattelino
Chair
UCLA Academic Senate

Encl.

Cc: April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate
Andrea Kasko, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, UCLA Academic Senate
Shane White, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

UCLA MEMORANDUM

FACULTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
College of Letters and Science

A265 Murphy Hall
Box 951571
Los Angeles, California 90095

To: Nathan Brostrom, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
UC Office of the President

Fr: Erin Debenport, Chair, College Faculty Executive Committee
Efrain Kristal, Interim Vice Chair, College Faculty Executive Committee

Date: January 10, 2023

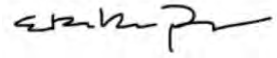
Re: **Response to Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices**

The College Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) at UCLA appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments to the Systemwide Presidential Proposed Policy on Sustainable Practices.

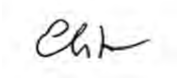
After an engaged discussion of the proposed updated policy during our meeting on December 2, 2022, committee members raised a concern about the carbon neutrality aspects of the policy. Members provide one request: that preparedness information be included on the available reserves in terms of emergency 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.

Erin Debenport, Chair



Efrain Kristal, Interim Vice Chair



UCLA Academic Senate
Executive Board

Campus Response to the Climate Crisis Special Committee

January 4, 2023

To: Jessica Cattelino, Chair, Academic Senate and Executive Board

From: Rachel Lee, Chair, Campus Response to the Climate Crisis Special Committee

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

On December 13, 2022, the members of the Campus Response to the Climate Crisis Special Committee (CRCC) of the Executive Board held an inaugural committee meeting. Members agreed to respond to the (Systemwide Senate Review) Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices in the context of the recent Academic Senate Memorial on Reducing Fossil Fuel Combustion (Memorial).

Of 3,649 UCwide Senate members who voted, 84.6% voted in favor of the Memorial, which "petitions the Regents for investments in UC's infrastructure that will reduce on-campus fossil fuel combustion by at least 60% of current levels by 2030 and by 95% of current levels by 2035." While we applaud efforts to advance "climate neutrality" goals in the proposed policy revisions, we urge the University of California (UC) and all its campuses and locations to move more quickly and proactively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Indeed, CRCC members ask the UC to meet the fossil fuel reduction targets stated in the Memorial.

Cc: April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate
Members, Campus Response to the Climate Crisis Special Committee

UCLA Academic Senate
Council on Planning & Budget

December 20, 2022

Jessica Cattelino, Chair
Academic Senate

Re: Proposed Revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Chair Cattelino,

At its meeting on December 5, 2022, the Council on Planning and Budget (CPB) discussed the Proposed Revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. Members offered the following comments.

Members agreed with the proposed revisions to the policy and commented that it would be useful to promote daily actions and facility plans aimed at reducing environmental impact (e.g., turn down AC instead of building a new building). A few members added that they observed no mention of investments in energy generation (for instance, installation of solar panels); many of our buildings lend themselves to this and could make campuses more resilient against energy supply interruptions.

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

Best regards,

Andrew Leuchter, Chair
Council on Planning and Budget

cc: Andrea Kasko, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Academic Senate
Shane White, 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

UCLA Academic Senate
Faculty Welfare Committee

December 16, 2022

To: Jessica Cattelino, Chair
Academic Senate

From: Phillip Bonacich, Chair
Faculty Welfare Committee

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

Dear Chair Cattelino,

At its meeting on December 13, 2022, the Faculty Welfare Committee (FWC) reviewed and discussed the proposed revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. After discussion, members agreed not to opine.

Thank you for the opportunity to review.

cc: Andrea Kasko, Vice Chair/ Chair Elect, Academic Senate
Shane White, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, Academic Senate
Renee Rouzan-Kay, Senior Policy Analyst, Faculty Welfare Committee
Members of the Faculty Welfare Committee

UCLA Academic Senate
Council on Research

December 7, 2022

Jessica Cattelino, Chair
Academic Senate

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

Dear Chair Cattelino,

At its meetings on November 2, 2022, and December 7, 2022, the Council on Research (COR) discussed the proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. Members agreed with the proposed revisions and offered no additional comments.

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

Sincerely,

Jeff Brantingham, Chair
Council on Research

cc: Andrea Kasko, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Academic Senate
Shane White, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, Academic Senate
Elizabeth Feller, Associate Director, Academic Senate
Members of the Council on Research

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OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
PATTI LIWANG, CHAIR, ACADEMIC SENATE
senatechair@ucmerced.edu

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED
5200 NORTH LAKE ROAD
MERCED, CA 95343

January 18, 2023

To: Susan Cochran, Chair, Academic Council

From: Patti LiWang, Chair, UCM Divisional Council

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

Dear Chair Cochran,

The proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices was distributed for comment to the Merced Division Senate Committees, School Executive Committees, and the Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability.

Several committees offered comments for consideration. Their comments are appended to this memo and Divisional Council would specifically like to highlight the following:

- The Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom (FWAF) committee suggests that the policy require faculty and Senate consultation, particularly in working groups that shape sustainability policy.

- The Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA) suggests more of an emphasis on incentivizing green transportation and adding charging infrastructure for EVs to campuses.

- The Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability (FACS) encourages more ambitious goals for zero-plastics from food service and for vehicle carbon pollution. In addition, they strongly suggest more attention to biodiversity.

Divisional Council reviewed the committees' comments and supports their various points and suggestions.

The Merced Division thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy.

CC: Divisional Council
Monica Lin, Executive Director, Systemwide Academic Senate
Michael LaBriola, Assistant Director, Systemwide Academic Senate
Senate Office
FACS Chair Dawson
SSHA EC Chair/DivCo Member Hagger
SOE EC Chair Rusu

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ACADEMIC SENATE, MERCED DIVISION
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PLANNING AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION
KEVIN MITCHELL, CHAIR
kmitchell@ucmerced.edu

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED
5200 NORTH LAKE ROAD
MERCED, CA 95343

November 29, 2022

To: Patti LiWang, Senate Chair

From: Kevin Mitchell, Chair, Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA)

Re: CAPRA Comments on the Proposed Revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

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The revised Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices made several important changes to the UC Wide Sustainability Program. The revisions are very clear and transparent in a manner that allows measurement in the level of achievement in the coming years. There are six policy revisions derived from an earlier round of input from UC stakeholders. These revisions include: Green building design, reaching carbon neutrality five years earlier with a climate justice component, zero waste, sustainable food service, sustainable medical equipment, and healthier dietary options in food vending.

All of the revisions do not appear to be resource costly to UC Merced. The campus is already a leader in many of the initiatives above (e.g., LEED Building Certification, Net Zero Carbon, and Food Waste). The Policy on Sustainable Practices also places the UC system as a national and international model for green-friendly operations in higher education.

One area of concern that is not incorporated into the revised policy involves transportation. The core Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices dedicates an entire section to transportation with goals on zero emission university vehicles and employee commuting practices. This part of the policy is relevant to UC Merced contributing to UC's sustainability goals. The most recent available data (fall 2021 from the UCM office of Institutional Research and Decision Support) show that 43 percent of UCM faculty and 49 percent of UC Staff do not live in the city of Merced. While the Sustainability Practices Policy does acknowledge telecommuting as a trend that is assisting in reducing carbon emissions, UC Merced and UCOP could do more to incentivize green transportation alternatives. This includes positive incentives to faculty that bicycle, carpool, or use public transportation to commute to campus. UCM could also provide other positive incentives for staff and faculty to live closer to campus. Finally, UCM can vastly expand its current infrastructure for electric car charging.

UC Merced could also make a greater investment in healthier food options in all campus stores and dining locations. A final area that the UC-wide Sustainability Steering Committee should consider is aligning the

UC Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices with the UC Green New Deal[1] and the California Green New Deal.[2]

In summary, the current revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices appear to have a minimal resource impact on our campus. In addition, CAPRA recommends the following additional actions:

1) UCM should immediately expand its EV charging infrastructure, including a) more free charging locations in the Bellevue and North Bowl parking lots and 2) fast commercial charging stations (e.g., Charge-Point, Electrify America, etc.)
2) A much stronger program by both UCM and UCOP of positive incentives for 1) carpooling, biking, or taking public transportation to arrive to work and 2) living closer to campus
3) UCM should immediately make an effort for providing healthier food options in all campus stores and vending machines
4) The current Policy on Sustainable Practices should align more explicitly with the goals of the UC Green Deal and the California Green Deal

We appreciate the opportunity to opine.

cc: Senate Office

[1] https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mBOF8wgnOsc-NhgG5VXBIFc5h2UDAeel/view

[2] https://greennewdealca.org/

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ACADEMIC SENATE, MERCED DIVISION
COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH (COR)
JASON SEXTON, CHAIR

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED
5200 NORTH LAKE ROAD
MERCED, CA 95343

November 29, 2022

To: Patti LiWang, Senate Chair

From: Jason Sexton, Chair, Committee on Research (CoR)

Re: CoR's Comments on the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

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The UC Policy on Sustainable Practices is reviewed and revised annually based on feedback from the prior year, since 2004. In general, sustainability standards were increased in the annual revision this year, which is laudable, without major policy changes. Can a rationale be added for each standard and its proposed revision each year? For example, what was the rationale for Silver certification for new parking structures? Why not Gold, and what is the difference or potential impact of choosing between these standards? Additionally, explanations of how standards were developed would be helpful for evaluating current and future policies? E.g., 25% plant-based food for each campus or location by 2030. How was 25% determined? What analysis or rationale?

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments.

cc: Senate Office

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ACADEMIC SENATE, MERCED DIVISION
COMMITTEE ON FACULTY WELFARE AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM
DAVID JENNINGS, CHAIR
djennings3@ucmerced.edu

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED
5200 NORTH LAKE ROAD
MERCED, CA 95343

November 29, 2022

To: Patti LiWang, Chair, Division Council

From: David Jennings, Chair, Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom (FWAF)

Re: FWAF Comments on Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

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FWAF reviewed the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices and offers the below comments.

Sustainability is a collective goal, and the practices that support it affect us all. The proposed policy, however, primarily tasks various administrative bodies with the further development and implementation of sustainable practices. Though it says, "The University will provide for ongoing active participation of students, faculty and other academic appointees, [etc.]… in further development and implementation of this Policy," we recommend that the policy require faculty and Senate consultation (IV.A). For instance, it could expressly require the inclusion of faculty or Senate representatives in the working groups that shape sustainability policies and their implementation both at the system and campus level.

This sort of consultation might increase buy-in from faculty stakeholders. As it stands, local policy and its implementation proceeds without adequate faculty input. For instance, UC Merced's most recent publicly available Climate Action Plan doesn't list faculty or Senate representatives among its authors or reviewers; and the Sustainability Office implements policies that affect faculty, such as a prohibiting cleaning staff from emptying trash bins in their offices, without adequately consulting or warning them.

The proposed policy requires that local Procurement departments integrate sustainability processes and practices into their procedures (III.G.5). Our local Procurement Office has recently faced massive challenges, leaving it barely able to perform its basic functions. FWAF recommends, at least on our campus, a flexible or staggered introduction of new sustainable practices, one sensitive to that Offices' current ability to meet its workload, to help ensure that faculty's procurement needs can be met.

A small point: The policy mentions goals in terms of percentage reductions without always specifying the relevant metric. For instance, the section on sustainable food sets of the goal of "25% plant-based food by 2030" (p. 18). Is that by number of items, volume, weight, or some combination thereof?

We appreciate the opportunity to opine.

cc: Senate Office

21 November 2022

Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability Comment on Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Chair LiWang,

Thank you for the option to comment on the revisions to the *Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices (PPSP)*. The Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability (FACS) considered the revisions in light of the *PPSP* as a whole.

We are encouraged by changes including raising the minimum LEED certification for new buildings, the earlier date for carbon neutrality for Scope 3 emissions (2045 instead of 2050), and adding plant-based food targets for dining services and improvements for machine vended beverages and food. We hope that additional aspirational targets for which we strive will often be resourced and met.

However, we are discouraged by the following changes and encourage immediate redress.
- The two year postponement of zero-plastics targets for food services is difficult to fathom; suitable substitutes for plastics (e.g. compostable cardboards, wood) and practices that avoid any kind of waste (e.g. ceramics, glass, metals for containers and utensils provided by the purveyor or the customer) are routine in the food industry.
- Targeting such a small proportion (25%) of food to be plant-based is insufficiently ambitious from both sustainability and health perspectives and should be replaced with higher targets and commensurate communications efforts to support behavioral change.
- We believe many faculty would be prepared to use offsets for business-related campus air travel and encourage release of recommendations or a range of options at the earliest opportunity.

We also would encourage more ambitious goals for the proportion of single-occupancy vehicle commuting (-10% of 2015 rates by 2025) and adoption of zero-emissions vehicles (4.5% by 2025), coupled with essential infrastructure such as premium parking for carpooling and charging stations.

Particularly, we are at pains to point out, as we did last year, that issues surrounding biodiversity remain practically unaddressed (bar e.g. one parenthetical aside in section I.1.a. on water sustainability). The revised PPSP therefore again lacks policy text and procedures for a fundamental target area: biodiversity. Biodiversity is the defining attribute of this planet that has made it, and can keep it, habitable and hospitable. Biodiversity has benefits in carbon sequestration, microclimate mitigation, water purification, reduction of fertilizers and pesticides, maintaining endemic and cultural species, sustaining symbiotic systems, improving mental health and well-being, and more; moreover, avoiding biodiversity loss, specifically avoiding bird collisions with buildings, is an important component of LEED certification. As a new “Health and Wellness” section was added last year, we recommend also development of a biodiversity sustainability section that incorporates all UC's properties — not limited to the UC Natural Reserve System, which addresses some biodiversity goals in part — including the enrichment and replacement of non-native campus landscaping with locally relevant California natives. Using built environments to meet biodiversity targets is a growing are of research and implementation in which the University of California can and should take a leading role, as in other aspects in the PPSP.

Sincerely,

Michael N Dawson

From: Martin Hagger <mhagger@ucmerced.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2022 1:07 PM
To: Fatima Paul <fpaul@ucmerced.edu>
Cc: UCM Senate Office <senateoffice@ucmerced.edu>; UCM Senate Chair <senatechair@ucmerced.edu>; Susan Amussen <samussen@ucmerced.edu>; Christine Howe <chowe2@ucmerced.edu>
Subject: RE: Comment by November 29, 2022 - Systemwide Review Item - Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Fatima,

The SSHA Executive Committee considered the recent systemwide proposed updates to the existing Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices, and voted to endorse the proposed changes.

Best wishes,

Martin

MARTIN S. HAGGER

PROFESSOR OF HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY
DIRECTOR, SHARPP LAB
CHAIR, GRADUATE PROGRAM IN PSYCHOLOGY
CHAIR, UC MERCED COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES
CHAIR, UC MERCED SSHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
VISITING PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
SENIOR (CO)EDITOR, *SOCIAL SCIENCE AND MEDICINE* (HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY)

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Profile: http://www.martinhagger.com
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November 29, 2022

TO: Holley Moyes, Chair | Undergraduate Council

FROM: Florin Rusu, Chair | School of Engineering Executive Committee (SoE ExComm)

SUBJECT: Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

CC: Senate Staff; SoE Files

Dear Chair Moyes:

The SoE ExComm has reviewed the "University of California – Policy on Sustainable Practices" and would like to offer the following additional language recommendation.

The request is to supplement the existing language under part ***B. Clean Energy, item 2***, continued on page 10 of 45, to include an additional section (noted as 2b below).

Existing language:

2. On-campus Renewable Electricity

Campuses and health locations will install additional on-site renewable electricity supplies and energy storage systems whenever cost-effective and/or supportive of the location's Climate Action Plan or other goals.

Requested Supplemental Language (in addition to existing language above):

**********START OF DRAFT LANGUAGE **********

2b. On-campus Solar Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging

Given that the state is moving rapidly toward EV adoption and the benefit of charging EVs during the day when solar electricity is directly available, campuses will seek to identify cost-effective opportunities to install EV charging in solar-covered university parking lots. *

*Note that California emits more carbon dioxide from vehicles than for power generation and note that more than 2 TWh of electricity is being curtailed each year because the electricity isn't available in the same location and place as the demand. EV charging from solar panels that are shading the parked car will enable university students, faculty and staff to charge from locally generated solar electricity rather than from natural gas generated power at night. It may be appropriate to increase rates for cars that are receiving the charging, but if the university can offer this as part of the standard parking fees, it will be a great boost to California's sustainability goals.

**********END OF PROPOSED LANGUAGE **********

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

SANG-HEE LEE
PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY
RIVERSIDE, CA 92521-0217
TEL: (951) 827-4390
EMAIL: SANG-HEE.LEE@UCR.EDU

January 12, 2023

Susan Cochran, Chair, Academic Council
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607-5200

RE: [Systemwide Senate Review] Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Susan,

The Riverside Executive Council discussed the *Revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices* as a part of their agenda on January 9, 2023, alongside the comments from the consulted committees: Committee on Faculty Welfare (CFW), Committee on Physical Resources Planning (PRP), and Executives Committees from CHASS, School of Education, School of Medicine, and School of Public Policy.

The need to engage faculty to ensure that sustainable practices articulate with research demands was raised in the comments by the School of Public Policy Faculty Executive Committee and the Senate Committee on Physical Resources Planning. This point was discussed further during the Executive Council meeting and was emphatically endorsed by the members of the Executive Council.

Sincerely yours,

Sang-Hee Lee
Professor of Anthropology and Chair of the Riverside Division

CC: Monica Lin, Executive Director of the Academic Senate
Cherysa Cortez, Executive Director of UCR Academic Senate Office

UC RIVERSIDE

College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

December 6, 2022

TO: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

FROM: John Kim, Chair
CHASS Executive Committee

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

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The CHASS Executive Committee has reviewed the UC Policy on Sustainable Practices. We did not notice any major issues and are generally happy with the leadership position the UC aspires to take in the field of environmental sustainability.

We would, however, like to note a number of concerns that we would like to see addressed in the next version of the document.

1) Some of the goals – e.g. the procurement of sustainable food products and plant-based foods – lack baseline numbers. Without context the goals of 25%/30% seem rather low.
2) The section on water does not address the issue of sustainable (desert) landscaping
3) Environmental justice is only mentioned once, but arguably should inform all sustainability decisions the UC takes. For example, there is no discussion on how the switch to sustainable food products will affect food prices (and who would bear the burden of the potentially increased costs).

UC RIVERSIDE Academic Senate

COMMITTEE ON FACULTY WELFARE

November 9, 2022

To: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair
Riverside Division Academic Senate

Fr: Robert Clare, Chair
Committee on Faculty Welfare

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

Faculty Welfare reviewed the proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices at their November 8, 2022 meeting and was supportive of the policy.

UC RIVERSIDE Academic Senate

COMMITTEE ON PHYSICAL RESOURCES PLANNING

December 19, 2022

To: Sang-Hee Lee
Chair, Riverside Division

From: Linda Walling, Chair
Committee on Physical Resources Planning

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

The Physical Resources Planning (PRP) Committee reviewed the Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices document. Overall, PRP supports the initiatives within the document and the revisions proposed. We provide the following comments.

- The PRP Committee supports the efforts for sustainable practices on all UC campuses. Perhaps we missed it, but it is not clear how the progress and use of purchased offsets for each campus is monitored and evaluated. It is also not how these sustainability initiatives are communicated to its students, faculty, and staff. More transparent processes and better communication would allow each campus to better embrace the principles of sustainability.
- The Committee expressed concern about the ability of our campus to support the energy-savings initiatives planned for LEEDs buildings. The maintenance of these systems must be considered in the planning process. One recurring limitation on our campus is having an insufficient number of staff to keep the systems working as planned. The LEEDs initiatives proposed must be more carefully aligned with future building residents. For example, LEEDs initiatives resulted in MRB1 having insufficient power to support the ultracold freezers of the faculty who moved into this building. PRP understands that this mandated the purchase of new ultracolds. The replacement of expensive functional equipment might not be considered a "green" policy.
- Throughout the proposal, one transitional strategy to achieve carbon neutrality is to purchase carbon offsets. Several questions arise. How is the use of purchased carbon offsets monitored on each campus? Are there ramifications for the heavy reliance on purchased carbon offsets? How will the UC system decrease the use of purchased carbon offsets? There is the Offsets Technical Committee in place, but it appears that projects are viewed independently. Is the impact of a project on a campus' overall sustainability plan evaluated at the time of project discussion? Is there a mechanism to motivate campuses to implement more sustainability proactive measures rather than the use of purchased carbon offsets? This might provoke more rapid change.

- In Section V.C.10.g., the proposal suggests that the UC system should prioritize development of its own carbon offsets. Are there such plans for each campus? How are they prioritized? How are they communicated to students, faculty, and staff?
- Section III. A.1.e. We wondered why parking structures are recommended to have a "Silver" rating rather than a "Gold" rating.
- Section III B.1. The rationale behind a “2%” annual average reduction in energy use is not clear. This seems like a modest goal for energy use reduction. Furthermore, there is no timeframe for achievement of this annual reduction or what the desired end result would be (since we cannot reduce energy use to zero).
- Section III. H.1.c.i. appears to be missing.
- Section III. H.1.c.ii. The campuses and health locations will strive to increase amounts of plant-based foods. We are hoping that the campuses are seriously looking at the salt and fat content of the plant-based meat substitutes that might be used. Some of the meat alternatives are as high in fat and higher in salt than meat and their carbon-footprint is not currently understood as components are imported from around the globe and not produced locally. While avoiding meat does indeed decrease our carbon footprint, in some cases the plant-based meat alternatives are not a healthier alternative and may not be as “green” as touted.
- Section III.I.3. It is an important advance to pursue more sustainable water systems on our campuses. The use of water-to-waste systems is an admirable goal. However, the campuses must consider the quality of their city’s water system when pursuing such goals. The high salt content of the Riverside water system wreaks havoc with current autoclaves causing lost time and mandating constant and costly repairs.
- Section III.L.2.i. “will” is misspelled.
- Section III.L.2.b.i. We question the “eye-level placement of vending machines”. Will this easily accommodate the average standing human and a human confined to a wheel-chair?
- Section V.A.3.a. We strongly support the green design of new buildings and for building renovations. However, is there a mechanism to assure that a sufficient number of sustainable measures proposed in a building renovation project are actually implemented? This may be addressed elsewhere in this document. Perhaps directing the reader to the correct location of the implementation policy would be sufficient to resolve this comment.
- Section V.C.6. The revision and review process for the Framework for Incorporating Environmental & Climate Justice into Climate Action is not clearly indicated.
- Section V.D.4. Parking is expensive for our commuting students. We would like to know if parking pricing for students be adjusted or compensated to ensure affordability for all UC students.
- It was not clear if there are procedures or provisions for consultation or feedback from local Native Nations at each campus location. This should be clarified.

UC RIVERSIDE
School of Education

December 13, 2022

To: Sang-Hee Lee, Division Chair of the UCR Division of the Academic Senate and Cherysa Cortez, Executive Director of the UCR Academic Senate

From: Raquel M. Rall, Ph.D., Faculty Chair of the School of Education Executive Committee

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

The SOE Executive Committee reviewed the [Systemwide Review] Proposed Revisions to Policy: Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices and discussed any comments/feedback at our executive committee meeting on November 22, 2022. Additional comments were also received via email.

At this time the School of Education does not have any major questions or comments regarding this policy. The revisions were clear. Once the policy is adopted, we would like to see more guidance regarding how each department might work to support these goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Sincerely,

Raquel M. Rall, Ph.D.
Faculty Executive Committee Chair 2022-2025
School of Education
University of California, Riverside

UC RIVERSIDE | School of Medicine

November 29, 2022

TO: Sang-Hee Lee, Ph.D., Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

FROM: Marcus Kaul, Ph.D., Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, UCR School of Medicine

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

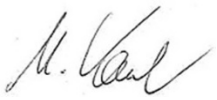
Dear Sang-Hee,

The SOM Faculty Executive Committee has reviewed the Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. The committee expressed concerns about:

- The practicability for research requirements, for example, are shipping and packaging practices being considered where the use of styrofoam is required or running freezers continuously,
- How do we ensure this policy is not going to affect current research,
- Is building construction considering the need to control temperature and maintain proper ventilation/airflow?

In addition, the committee agrees there is a need for more faculty involvement on planning committees/planning phases. The committee wants to avoid having to go back and retrofit buildings in the event that buildings are not properly equipped.

Yours sincerely,



Marcus Kaul, Ph.D.
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee School of Medicine

UC RIVERSIDE
School of Public Policy

School of Public Policy
University of California, Riverside
INTS 4133 | 900 University Ave
Riverside, CA 92521

TO: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair
Riverside Division

FR: Richard M. Carpiano, Chair
Executive Committee, School of Public Policy

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

Date: December 12, 2022

The Executive Committee of the School of Public Policy reviewed the documentation for "[Systemwide Review] Proposed Revisions to Policy: Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices."

We have no comments to submit.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Carpiano, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Professor of Public Policy

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO UCSD

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OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

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TELEPHONE: (858) 534-3640
FAX: (858) 534-4528

January 13, 2023

Professor Susan Cochran
Chair, Academic Senate
University of California
VIA EMAIL

Re: Divisional Review of the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Chair Cochran,

The Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices was distributed to San Diego Divisional Senate standing committees and discussed at the January 9, 2023 Divisional Senate Council meeting. Senate Council reviewed the proposed revisions but declined to offer significant comments focused on the proposed revisions because the general sentiment was that this policy needs to be substantially overhauled.

To be sure, Council supports a policy on sustainable efforts, but found this proposal to be underwhelming at best. The policy seems oddly frozen in time, reflecting a climate reality that has long since been bypassed. Reviewers noted that the policy is lagging behind reality in terms of the problems campuses are facing and the solutions that are already underway. As such, it was suggested that the policy be revamped to reflect the deepened commitment to climate change mitigation, with the University moving away from carbon neutrality and towards planning for a steep reduction in usage of fossil fuels. Reviewers strongly suggested that decarbonization and electrification of campuses should be the main focus of sustainable efforts rather than carbon offsets. It was noted that some of the wording used in the policy was confusing and may even be misleading, such as the nature of the biogas program, which was presented as a direct substitution of biomethane for natural gas on campuses, but is actually an offset project. It was suggested that instead of rewriting this already outmoded policy, the Sustainability Steering Committee and the newly created Fossil Free UC Task Force could be merged and then be charged with overhauling the entire policy. Council noted that this is the chance for the UC system to demonstrate leadership and innovation in sustainable practices and environmental stewardship by adopting aggressive approaches and goals, which will need to surpass existing state policies in most cases. There is an opportunity here for UC campuses to serve as “living labs” and for sustainable efforts to be integrated into teaching to encompass the mission of the university.

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,

Nancy Postero
Chair
San Diego Divisional Academic Senate

Attachments

cc: John Hildebrand, Vice Chair, San Diego Divisional Academic Senate
Lori Hullings, Executive Director, San Diego Divisional Academic Senate
Monica Lin, Executive Director, UC Systemwide Academic Senate

December 15, 2022

NANCY POSTERO, CHAIR
Academic Senate, San Diego Division

SUBJECT: Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Professor Horwitz's letter clearly voices the Academic Senate consensus that the policy "does not go far enough to address the climate crisis," and he goes on to call for committees and taskforces dedicated to planning for onsite decarbonization of campuses as a necessary step. Since writing his letter, Professor Horwitz has himself been leading the charge on that front, and we are now firmly embarked on the complicated, expensive, necessary road towards electrification. We are heartened by this step forward, commensurate with the University of California's reputation for environmental leadership. It is our hope that the next draft of the policy reflects this deepened commitment to the cause of climate change mitigation, away from carbon neutrality and towards fossil free. The policy document is now lagging behind the reality on the ground, and needs to be much more emphatic about the problems we face, and the solutions already underway.

As it stands, this policy is manifestly a document composed of years of sedimented bureaucratic procedures. Take the wording of the biogas scheme. More than one of the letters from senate faculty betrayed deep confusion about the nature of the program, due to the misleading way it is characterized. The policy declares: "By 2025, at least 40% of the natural gas combusted on-site at each campus and health location will be biogas." Some of the letter writers expressed understandable bemusement, asking if there was the time and money to install the infrastructure to combust biogas at each campus and health location in less than three years. We strongly suggest that you change the wording to "By 2025, each campus and health location will purchase biogas credits equal to at least 40% of on-site methane gas combustion." This clarifies that the biogas program is not a campus decarbonization strategy, it is a carbon offset. Despite all the well-known problems with supply and scalability of biogas, in the opinion of the UC San Diego CCCC, this offset scheme absolutely deserves the designation "high quality." The biogas program is the only offset project that meets all the relevant criteria and should therefore function as the one and only stop-gap measure while electrification planning is underway.

It may be time to start afresh. Through no bad faith on anyone's part, the 2025 'neutrality' target has created perverse incentives to prioritize appearance over substance. We are a great university, entrusted by the world to tackle an existential threat, and as we pursue substantive decarbonization, we can and must be transparent about our actual smokestack emissions, the carbon footprint of our expansion plans, and the problems with the carbon neutrality concept, allowing others to learn from our missteps, and our redirections. Far from undermining our credibility, transparency will enhance it.

We are very pleased to see that the move to fossil free planning is beginning to be included in this document, showing up as bullet-point 7 of the 'Climate Protection' section. It is terribly watered down, however, merely requiring that "Each campus will complete an assessment of Scope 1 emissions from natural gas combustion by 2035 or at the date when that location's combined heat & power plant (or any other major fossil fuel-using campus infrastructure) is planned for capital renewal or major repair, whichever occurs first." UC Berkeley and UC Davis **have already completed the first stages of this planning process**, and the other campuses are getting money from UCOP to conduct their decarbonization studies in 2023. **This means that 2035 is not so much the date for completing the *planning* process, as it is the deadline for *completing each campus's energy transition,* such that it reduces GHG reductions by 95% of present levels, as per the Senate Memorial.** It is our

understanding that a consultation process is underway to update this aspect of the policy, and we look forward to a constructive and collegial collaboration.

On a further matter, many of the letters from senate faculty addressed the question of emissions from transportation, which is a truly daunting problem, perhaps the most pressing issue for climate change mitigation after the challenge of retiring our fossil energy infrastructure. The policy declares the aim of reducing SOV commuting to campus by 10%, and some of the letters wondered how that was to be achieved. Much as we agree that SOVs are a huge problem in California, and much as we applaud the fact that the policy focus is not exclusively on electric cars, we know that transit solutions have to be carrots, which means investing in public transportation, in active partnership with local transit authorities. We will not get people out of their cars in the absence of an alternative. Unfortunately, car-pooling does not work at scale for faculty or students, because of our extremely variable schedules. UC San Diego now has a trolley line to campus, and while there are still first-mile and last-mile problems aplenty, it is a really significant step. Given the scale of the emissions from road transportation in the nation and in the state (around 41% of California's GHG emissions), this is a conversation about UC institutional priorities that needs to happen fast on the heels of the electrification/decarbonization planning.

Finally, we would very much like to see the new policy document lay out some procedures for two new forms of environmental impact accounting.

1. **Counting the social costs of carbon in all infrastructure planning.** For example, when it comes to electrification plans, we know that diesel back-up infrastructure is cheaper than battery storage, but we would need to see a comparison that takes the social costs of carbon emissions into account. UC Davis is already discussing this possibility, with a cost per ton of $246. We are very enthusiastic about this important step, and urge the Office of the President to make it official systemwide. Plans for new buildings and onsite renewable energy projects, as well as deciding between procurement alternatives are other areas where computing the social cost of carbon will enable better decision making.
2. **Counting carbon emissions from new buildings.** Greenhouse gas emissions must be calculated for the construction activities and construction materials for each proposed new building and building renovation. A plan must be provided for minimizing such emissions.
    1. Justification of new buildings must be based on revised estimates of needs that incorporate increased virtual research, administration and teaching activities.
    2. All new buildings must be designed to either include local solar generation in rooftops and awnings in initial construction or facilitate later addition. Evaluation of whether local solar generation is included in initial construction must be conducted with a model that includes realistic future price of energy and social price of carbon.
    3. Waste generated during construction, including new construction, demolition, renovation, and site preparation must be estimated and plans submitted for minimization as part of the building approval process.
    4. All GHG emitted during all phases of construction and embodied in construction materials should be included in Scope 1 emissions.

Many thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Cathy Gere, Chair
Committee on Campus Climate Change

cc: J. Hildebrand

December 15, 2022

NANCY POSTERO, CHAIR
Academic Senate, San Diego Division

SUBJECT: Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

The Committee on Campus and Community Environment (CCCE) reviewed the proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices at its November meeting. The members of the committee do not have the expertise to make informed comments on the policy, therefore, the CCCE neither endorsed or objected to it.

Sincerely,

David Kirsh, Chair
Committee on Campus and Community Environment

cc: J. Hildebrand

December 14, 2022

NANCY POSTERO, CHAIR
Academic Senate, San Diego Division

SUBJECT: Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

The Committee on Faculty Welfare reviewed the proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices at its November meeting. We were encouraged to see the University of California maintain its commitment to sustainability as a central organizational practice. We were nevertheless concerned with the fact that the proposed modifications, and the policies already in place, are a missed opportunity to demonstrate leadership in sustainable practices and environmental stewardship.

The revisions contained in the proposed text are mostly focused on brining the University of California in line with existing state policies. For example, the target for net neutrality around scope 3 emissions (those not generated by the University directly but indirectly in connection to its activities, from commuting and travel to the fuel and energy related services) is moved from 2050 to 2045, matching changes at the state level. As the largest employer in the state and the most important public university in the country, we feel that matching targets is falling short of what could be done. The University of California in general, and specific campuses such as ours, could and should adopt an even more aggressive approach to minimizing the impact of our activities on the environment. If a system like ours, which produces so much science about the environmental crisis and its physical, ecological, social, economic and political consequences, does not adopt the strongest possible targets of abatement of greenhouse emissions, it is partly absconding its responsibilities.

Sincerely,

Juan Pablo Pardo-Guerra, Chair
Committee on Faculty Welfare

cc: J. Hildebrand

December 15, 2022

NANCY POSTERO, CHAIR
Academic Senate, San Diego Division

SUBJECT: Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

The Committee on Planning and Budget reviewed the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices at its December meeting. In general terms, the committee found the sustainability goals rather modest in scope and quite lacking in enforcement. It may be noteworthy that the university has had to revise some of its targets because California State targets have overtaken our original goals. UC thus does not appear much of a leader in this area.

The committee noted that our campus, UCSD, has probably far exceeded the modest sustainable transportation goals, (p13), of reducing the percentage of employees and students commuting by single occupant vehicle by 10% between 2015 and 2025. These targets do not seem impressive.

The document states that new UC buildings (except acute care facilities) will exceed California building code standards by at least 20% and qualify for USBC LEED "Gold" standards.

The committee found the goals laudable, but architects and preservationist agree, the greenest building is the one already built. UC owns many buildings that qualify for US National Park Service historic status, and we urge the University to practice meaningful sustainability, and honor its own heritage, by maintaining, preserving, and where suitable, re-purposing its existing facilities. The CPB thinks the policy document should be revised to include language on building preservation and sustainability.

Sincerely,

Michael Provence, Chair
Committee on Planning & Budget

cc: J. Hildebrand

UCSF Academic Senate

http://senate.ucsf.edu

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Steven W. Cheung, MD, Chair
Steve Hetts, MD, Vice Chair
Pamela Ling, MD, Secretary
Kathy Yang, PharmD, Parliamentarian

January 18, 2022

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

Re: Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Susan:

The San Francisco Division of the Academic Senate recently reviewed the revisions to UC's Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices, which establishes goals in 12 areas of sustainable practices: green building, clean energy, climate protection, transportation, sustainable operations, zero waste, procurement, foodservice, water, health care, performance assessment, and health and well-being. Since its last revision, the Sustainability Steering Committee approved several policy updates to some existing targets, some new requirements, and minor revisions to clarify the intent and improve the readability of the policy.

On the whole, our committees' comments ranged from commending the University for making progress in this area (R&J) to calling out the policy for "lagging the reality on the ground" (SUST) at both the UC and statewide levels, noting that it needs to be much more emphatic about the problems we face and the solutions already underway. I have classified my comments under the following categories: Definitions, policy text, compliance/responsibilities, and procedures.

Definitions:

- Appliances: R&J invites the University to consider whether "appliances" should be defined or whether Departments should be given instructions to consider their work and define the term for their purposes. In particular, UCSF wonders whether "appliances" are limited to items like refrigerators and washing machines or if "appliances" includes laboratory and operating room equipment; "appliances" may/should vary by department, with each department evaluating what it considers an "appliance" for its work
- Carbon Offsets: A definition of Carbon Offsets to set a universal understanding of what an offset is and is not (SUST).
- Parksmart Certification: Adding a definition of Parksmart certification under definitions as they do LEED (SUST).

Policy Text:

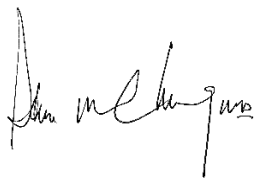
- Green Building Design: SUST recommends that stronger language be used for section A-1c (new building and renovation projects), remarking that the policy states that new buildings must not use fossil fuel, but then goes on to state that if they choose to use fossil fuel, they must state the reasoning why. As the policy is currently drafted, there is an approval process referenced later in the procedure section; but UCSF recommends referencing the approval process sooner in the policy document,
- Climate Protection/Greenhouse Gas Emissions: The policy lists qualities of high-quality offsets but doesn't define oversight here. SUST recommends amending the policy to specify how the oversight mechanism would work.

- Sustainable Transportation: Under D.2 (single occupant vehicle commuting), SUST notes that the policy needs to be explicit about the approach from getting from the 2025 sub-bullet to the 2050 sub-bullet. Campuses need to work with local transit authorities to make public transit a more acceptable option for students and employees, including paying attention to "first-" and "last-mile" challenges. Under D.3 (alternative fuel), SUST recommends amending the goal of 30% zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) by 2050 if we know that the state is requiring 100% new vehicle sales to be ZEV by 2035.
- Sustainable Building and Laboratory Operations: Under E.6 (Green Lab Assessment Program), SUST recommends including actionable items that would speak to training all researchers by including what programs and which parties must "adhere to all relevant UC, state and national policies and laws."
- Sustainable Foodservices: UCSF's SUST advocates for making UC's plant-based food goals more ambitious, noting that ~50% by 2030 would be more appropriate.
- Sustainability at UC Health: Under J-5a v (sustainable procurement), SUST recommends that, given the current use levels of reusable products/devices at some Academic Medical Center campuses, a goal of at least three is insufficient.

Compliance/Responsibilities:
CEP asks who is responsible for ensuring that the plan outcomes are audited periodically to evaluate success? Will one entity do this, or will there be a convergence of committees for these efforts? CEP recognizes that working groups, in addition to the Sustainability Steering Committee, evaluate the policy itself annually, but the committee inquires to what extent these groups coordinate implementation and evaluate progress toward these goals.

Procedures:
- Zero Waste: SUST makes the following comments:
  - New waste management plans: Health locations should be included; for some reasons, the policy omits health locations.
  - Waste reduction: First, construction and demolition waste should be tracked as waste, and second, organic, agricultural, and animal-related waste should be composted as feasible. If not, it should be tracked as waste.
- Sustainable Procurement: SUST proposes changing the wording from "will be applied within the constraints of research needs" to "will be explored to identify alternate sustainable research practices" to align with best practices, similar to 'H. Sustainable Foodservices.'

Thank you for the opportunity to opine on the revisions to this important Policy. If you have any questions, please let me know.



Steven W. Cheung, MD, 2021-23 Chair
UCSF Academic Senate

Enclosures (3)
Cc: Marya Zlatnik, Chair, UCSF Sustainability Committee
Dana Rohde, Chair, UCSF Committee on Educational Policy
Spencer Behr, Chair, UCSF Rules & Jurisdiction

UCSF Academic Senate

https://senate.ucsf.edu

January 09, 2023

Steven Cheung, MD, Chair
UCSF Academic Senate

Re: Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Chair Cheung:

The Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) writes to comment on the Systemwide Review of Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices.

CEP appreciates the amount of detail in this policy to increase sustainable practices across UC campuses. The committee would like to inquire who is responsible for ensuring that the plan outcomes are audited periodically to evaluate success. Will one entity do this, or will there be a convergence of committees for these efforts? CEP recognizes that working groups, in addition to the Sustainability Steering Committee, evaluate the policy itself annually, but the committee inquires to what extent these groups coordinate implementation and evaluate progress toward these goals.

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

Sincerely,

Dana Rohde, PhD
Chair, Committee on Education Policy, 2022-2023

UCSF Academic Senate

https://senate.ucsf.edu

Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction

Spencer Behr, MD, Chair

December 12, 2022

Steven Cheung, MD
Division Chair
UCSF Academic Senate

Re: Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices Systemwide Review

Dear Chair Cheung:

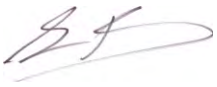
The Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction (R&J) writes to comment on the proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. R&J commends the University for its ongoing work to make the University of California more sustainable and environmentally responsible though this policy. R&J defers to its colleagues on UCSF's Senate Sustainability Committee to offer substantive comments on the policy. R&J has two small comments for consideration.

First, R&J would like the University to consider whether "appliances" should be a defined term in the policy. R&J members saw many references to appliances in the policy, and members looked for a definition to better understand whether "appliances" are limited to items like refrigerators and washing machines or if "appliances" includes laboratory and operating room equipment. R&J also wondered whether the definition of "appliances" should vary by Department, with each Department evaluating what it considers an "appliance" for its work. R&J does not have recommended answers to these questions, but R&J does invite the University to consider whether "appliances" should be defined or whether Departments should be given instructions to consider their work and define the term for their purposes.

Second, R&J would like to suggest a correction. On page 68 of the PDF of the systemwide review file under "Sustainable Procurement, Medical device reprocessing," there is a numbered list. The list begins with "iii" instead of "i." R&J recommends this error be corrected.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this review. Contact me or Senate analyst Kristie Tappan (kristie.tappan@ucsf.edu) with any questions.

Sincerely,



Spencer Behr, MD
Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction Chair

Cc: Todd Giedt, UCSF Academic Senate Executive Director
Sophia Bahar Root, UCSF Academic Senate Analyst
Marya Zlatnik, MD, UCSF Academic Senate Sustainability Committee Chair
Kenneth Laslavic, UCSF Academic Senate Sustainability Committee Analyst

UCSF Academic Senate

https://senate.ucsf.edu

January 11, 2022

Steven Cheung, MD
Division Chair
UCSF Academic Senate

Re: Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Steve:

We concur with the Academic Senate consensus as voiced by Chair Horwitz that the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices "does not go far enough to address the climate crisis, includes insufficiently aggressive and vague targets for eliminating campus use of fossil fuels, overemphasizes the role of carbon offsets, and lacks clear accountability and enforcement mechanisms around the sustainability goals."

The policy document is now lagging the reality on the ground at both the UC and statewide levels and needs to be much more emphatic about the problems we face and the solutions already underway.

We are encouraged that the UC has finally moved beyond carbon neutrality and towards fossil free.

We recommend amending the following specific points:

DEFINITIONS

- A definition of Carbon Offsets to set a universal understanding of what an offset is (and isn't).
- Adding a definition of Parksmart certification under definitions as they do LEED.

POLICY TEXT

- Under A-1c. it states that new buildings must not use fossil fuel, but then goes on to state that if they choose to use fossil fuel, they must state the reasoning why. We recommend stronger language here (i.e., if fossil fuel use is wanted, reasoning must be provided to specified body with authority to review and approve or reject the request). As the policy is currently drafted, there is an approval process referenced later in the procedure section; but we recommend referencing the approval process sooner in the policy document, otherwise it reads more like a request than a requirement.
- Under C-1a. it lists qualities of high-quality offsets but doesn't define oversight here. We recommend amending the policy to specify how the oversight mechanism would work.

- Under D-2. the policy needs to be explicit about the approach from getting from the 2025 sub-bullet to the 2050 sub-bullet. Campuses need to work with local transit authorities to make public transit a more acceptable option for students and employees, including paying attention to “first-“ and “last-mile” challenges.
- Under D-3. we recommend amending the goal of 30% ZEV by 2050 if we know that the state is requiring 100% new vehicle sales to be ZEV by 2035.
- Under E-6. we recommend including actionable items that would speak to training all researchers by including what programs and which parties must “adhere to all relevant UC, state and national policies and laws.”
- Under H-1c. the plant-based food goals can be more ambitious. We think ~50% by 2030 would be more appropriate. Staff and students would benefit from eating more sustainably and healthfully, and meat would still be a choice for those who bring their own food. This change would be both cost-saving and hugely impactful across campuses as we know diet is one of the most crucial behavioral changes needed for climate action. Also, we seek clarity around the the goal years as they seem incorrect (i.e., both goals are for 2030, so we think perhaps 2025 was meant for the first goal).
- Under J-5a v. we would recommend that, given the current use levels of reuseable products/devices at some Academic Medical Center campuses, a goal of at least 3 is insufficient.
- Under J-6. sustainable food products sold/served at health campuses should at least meet, if not exceed, the recommendations we make above re: H-1c.

PROCEDURES

- Under F-3. health locations should be included.
- Under F-7 a. construction and demolition waste should be tracked as waste.
- Under F-7 b,c. organic, agricultural, and animal-related waste should be composted as feasible. If not, it should be tracked as waste.
- Under G. we propose changing the wording from “will be applied within the constraints of research needs” to “will be explored to identify alternate sustainable research practices” to align with best practices similar to “H. Sustainable Foodservices.” For example, directly related to a research laboratory, when ordering research related material, integrate with BearBuy by including a few checkboxes where items are shipped in sustainable material/packaging, especially those that come in single use plastic, styrofoam packaging material, etc. In addition, currently UC vetted MyGreenLab must be mandatory for all “Research Groups” on campus. We recommend implementing a process through EH&S that would best integrate MyGreenLab Checklist into training not limited to the PI but to all laboratory members.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide input to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices.

Sincerely,

Marya Zlatnik, MD
Sustainability Committee

UC SANTA BARBARA

Academic Senate
Susannah Scott, Chair
Shasta Delp, Executive Director

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

January 17, 2023

To: Susan Cochran, Chair
Academic Senate

From: Susannah Scott, Chair
Santa Barbara Division

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

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

Overall, the reviewing groups found it difficult to evaluate the proposed modifications due to a lack of detail regarding their rationale, implementation, estimated costs and financing, anticipated enforcement mechanisms, and assessment tools. The main points are summarized below, with more details in the attached reviewing group responses.

Multiple reviewing groups identified the need for the policy to be expanded to include a more comprehensive definition of terms, clear and accurate cost estimates for each of the listed goals (in comparison to other, presumably less sustainable alternatives), justifications for each proposed modification to these goals, and a discussion of the expected economic impacts on the University. Without these components, it is impossible to evaluate the modifications in any meaningful way, weigh the tradeoffs of implementing each project, or suggest how they might be prioritized.

CRPP suggested that the document be revised to include language about how UC research might be brought to bear on sustainability problems and used to assess the University's progress toward its goals. The Committee asserted that aside from benefitting UC research and ensuring that the best possible methods are used, "incorporating faculty innovations into implementation and employing rigorous evaluation methodologies also sends a signal to other

organizations developing and implementing their own climate policy: innovation and evaluation are key to moving beyond paper policies toward real impact."

Finally, the L&S FEC called attention to UC's assurance to students, staff, and faculty that the policy supports "healthy buildings." Members of the FEC expressed concerns about the status of aging buildings on our own campus that were constructed before modern safety standards and may harbor toxic chemicals that can create a variety of health issues for those working there.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Academic Senate
Santa Barbara Division

January 12, 2023

To: Susannah Scott, Divisional Chair
Academic Senate

From: Subhash Suri, Chair 
Council on Faculty Welfare, Academic Freedom and Awards

Re: Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

At its meeting of January 11, 2023, the Council on Faculty Welfare, Academic Freedom and Awards (CFW) discussed the proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. While members found the new goals and standards to be positive steps, some areas of concern and clarification were identified.

- "Savings by Design" (page 6) has been eliminated with no explanation as to why.
- It is odd that terms such as "fair trade" and "ethically sourced" are not found in this policy. The United Nations has formalized concepts and definitions that could be included.
- There should be a consensus and a definition of the term "sustainable", as that is guiding this entire policy.

CC: Shasta Delp, Executive Director, Academic Senate

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
ACADEMIC SENATE
SANTA BARBARA DIVISION
Council on Planning & Budget

November 16, 2022

To: Susannah Scott, Divisional Chair
UCSB Academic Senate

From: James Rawlings, Chair
Council on Planning & Budget

Re: Sustainable Practices Policy

The Council on Planning & Budget has reviewed the proposed Sustainability Practises Policy and is appreciative of revisions that have improved the document. That said, it remains difficult to assess both the rationale and the implications of the policy given the continuing lack of clarity.

In particular, the document's lack of justification for specific policy choices makes it exceedingly difficult to weigh the pros and cons of policy choices, which invariably will involve trade-offs that may significantly impact our campus' value proposition. For example, the opening memo notes that "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." This raises a number of obvious questions: What is the difference between Silver and Gold certification? Why is the change warranted? Specifically, what will be the environmental and climate advantages of the change? How will this impact construction cost? Where will the funding come from to build to this higher standard? What downsides are there to buildings that are constructed to LEED standards? What exactly is "Parksmart Silver certification"? The document provides little help with any of this. Consequently, as the document raises more questions than it provides answers with respect to adopting the new more stringent LEED certification, it is exceptionally difficult to assess the value of this proposed change. This is the case with a number of the proposed revisions.

Given that the document is being put forth for "systemwide review," which is described as a "public review" in the opening memo, it would be enormously helpful if it contained short and simple explanations of the terms used and changes being proposed. For example, the opening memo notes that the "date that campuses will achieve carbon neutrality from scope 3 sources was moved up from 2050 to 2045." This is one of six central changes noted by the memo. The difficulty is that no attempt is made to give context to this statement by defining "scope 3 sources" here. Without such a definition, non-specialists will likely have no idea what is being proposed. This would be simple enough to remedy. The UCSB Sustainability Office offers a short definition on their website, explaining that scope 3 emissions are caused by "[u]niversity-funded business air travel and student, staff, and faculty commuting." Although it is just a few words in length, such a definition would explain in simple terms what is being proposed.

Similarly, the document is very effective at setting clear goals (notwithstanding any disagreement of those goals), but the lack of any implementation guidelines, anticipated enforcement mechanisms, or applicable revenue streams creates significant confusion as to their practical meaning.

These limitations are critical for the UC system to address, as the core ambiguity will be dealt with (or not dealt with) by individual campuses in different ways. While we certainly do not advocate "one size fits all," shared approaches would eliminate redundancy and create new solutions that are easier to implement system-wide.

cc: Shasta Delp, Academic Senate Executive Director

Academic Senate
Santa Barbara Division

December 22, 2022

To: Susannah Scott, Divisional Chair
Academic Senate

From: David Stuart, Chair
Committee on Research Policy and Procedures

Re: Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

At its meeting of December 2, 2022, the Committee on Research Policy and Procedures (CRPP) discussed the proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. The Committee focused on the policy's potential impacts on research. CRPP would like clarification on the change of language from "climate neutrality goals" to a more general "climate goals". What was the motivation for these changes? It leaves the overall objective of this policy unclear. Does the UC want to achieve climate neutrality goals or other climate goals? Climate neutrality goals may come at a bigger cost to research. The document should be reworded to make clear the ambitions, actionable goals and assessment tools. What resources are going to be provided for these commitments? The Committee is concerned about indirectly crowding out already limited resources for research.

CRPP encourages the adoption of language that points out the opportunity for university research to inform (a) how to achieve the stated goals and (b) how to measure and evaluate progress toward the goals. Where faculty and labs can be incorporated into the implementation of the policy, it presents an opportunity to benefit both the UC research community and ensure that progress toward ambitious goals of the policy are tracked using the best available methods. Incorporating faculty innovations into implementation and employing rigorous evaluation methodologies also sends a signal to other organizations developing and implementing their own climate policy: innovation and evaluation are key to moving beyond paper policies toward real impact.

CC: Shasta Delp, Executive Director, Academic Senate

Academic Senate
Santa Barbara Division

November 30, 2022

To: Susannah Scott, Divisional Chair
Academic Senate

From: Michelle O'Malley, Chair
Graduate Council

Re: Divisional Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

At its meeting of November 28, 2022, Graduate Council reviewed the Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. While the Council is generally in favor of the UC system adopting more sustainable guidelines, it felt that the proposal lacked detail on what resources will be provided to campuses to enact, sustain, and monitor these changes in the long term.

CC: Shasta Delp, Executive Director, Academic Senate

UC SANTA BARBARA

Faculty Executive Committee
College of Letters and Science

November 18, 2022

To: Susannah Scott
Chair, Divisional Academic Senate

From: Jeffrey Stopple
Chair, L&S Faculty Executive Committee

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

At its meeting on November 10, 2022, the Faculty Executive Committee of the College of Letters and Science (FEC) reviewed proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. Proposed updates include changes "to some existing targets, some new requirements, and minor revisions to clarify the intent and improve the readability of the policy" within the Green Building Design, Climate Protection, Zero Waste, Sustainable Foodservice, and Health and Well-Being sections of the policy, per the review letter.

Although not a component of the proposed revisions, the FEC would like to highlight UC's assurance to students, staff, and faculty that the policy supports what the document refers to as "healthy buildings" as part of the policy's goal of safeguarding "1.b. Social, physical, and emotional well-being" of the UC community. Members of the FEC expressed concerns around the status of aging buildings on our own campus that were constructed before modern safety standards and may harbor toxic chemicals that can create a variety of health issues for those working there. Specific concerns around the number of cancer-related faculty deaths potentially attributable to conditions in outdated UCSB campus buildings, such as South Hall, were expressed. As such, the committee strongly urges that this policy outline a process for thorough evaluation and potential remediation of buildings that do not meet the UC standard of "healthy."

Beyond this feedback, the committee did not object to the proposed revisions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

cc: Pierre Wiltzius, Executive Dean of the College and Dean of Science
Michael Miller, Interim AVC and Interim Dean of Undergraduate Education
Charlie Hale, Dean of Social Sciences
Daina Ramey Berry, Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts

January 11, 2023

TO: Susannah Scott
Divisional Chair, Academic Senate

FROM: Steven DenBaars, Chair
College of Engineering, Faculty Executive Committee

DocuSigned by:
Steve DenBaars
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Chris Bates, Vice Chair
College of Engineering, Faculty Executive Committee

DocuSigned by:
Chris Bates
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RE: Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

The College of Engineering FEC met on Monday, November 15th and Wednesday, January 11th and reviewed the proposed policy changes. The committee questioned the economic feasibility of the proposal. Undoubtedly, the policy will have economic impacts on the university but specifics were not addressed. The committee presumes that sustainable policy would carry increased costs and the estimated costs should be detailed so that the tradeoffs of implementing the policy are clear. The committee noted that the language in the proposal is mostly vague (e.g., “strive”), with limited usage of more authoritative statements (e.g., “zero waste” and specific cars to be purchased). The committee suggests that every project that is inspired by this policy provide a detailed and accurate description of costs, especially as compared with less-sustainable options. The university would be better served by detailed cost analysis on various projects so that they may prioritize projects.

UC SANTA BARBARA

Faculty Executive Committee
Gevirtz Graduate School of Education

December 16, 2022

To: Susannah Scott, Chair
Academic Senate

From: Ty Vernon, Chair
Faculty Executive Committee, GGSE

Re: Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

The Faculty Executive Committee of the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education has reviewed the Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices.

The FEC votes unanimously to proceed with the strategies that strive in making UCSB greener and more sustainable campus.

Ty Vernon, Ph.D.
Faculty Executive Committee Chair
Gevirtz Graduate School of Education
UC SANTA BARBARA

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

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1156 HIGH STREET
SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95064

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

January 18, 2023

Susan D. Cochran, Chair
Academic Council

RE: Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Susan,

The Santa Cruz Division of the Academic Senate has completed its review of the proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices with the Committees on Academic Freedom (CAF), Planning and Budget (CPB), and Research (COR) providing comment. All were generally affirmative in their support of a systemwide policy on sustainable practices but raised issues related to implementation and costs associated with it.

It is important to acknowledge from the outset the importance of reliable energy to a research university. Traditional energy delivery systems and new renewable energy sources must be able to work together to deliver the power researchers need. As COR observed, "Increased use of renewable energy can, if properly deployed, help to mitigate the impacts of downtime of traditional energy sources such as the grid and COGEN, while also reducing our carbon footprint." COR further suggests that implementation should include the development of key metrics that address resiliency and uptime of campus electricity sources along with decreased environmental impacts. COR also points out that more should be developed in the policy to address how E-waste will be disposed of and offers UC Santa Cruz's Green Lab program as an excellent model.[1]

CAF raised issues related to the feasibility of conforming with some of the requirements of the policy. One such requirement would have University community members fly only with airlines that engage in sustainable practices. This could prove to be problematic given the fact that not all airlines can or will engage in these practices, and that there are destinations served by very few airlines. CAF commented, "We are concerned that this is not possible during research travel in some parts of the world and would ask for some clarification of the policy to allow for exceptions." CAF supports the use of remote work to reduce carbon emissions produced by commuters but suggests that the freedom to work remotely should be balanced against the mission of the

[1] See UCSC Sustainability Office at https://sustainability.ucsc.edu/engage/green-certified/green-labs/index.html

University. CAF suggested that the term "plant-based" be clarified in the policy because "it is not clear if the intention is to promote meat substitutes, the consumption of fruits and vegetables or all of the above."

CPB's comments were much more specific and focused on the aspects of the policy that, in their view, would have the most impact in furthering sustainable practices. Members observed that Green Building Design changes would mandate all new buildings move from LEED Silver to LEED Gold, as well as restricting use of fossil fuels, and estimates that this could increase up-front construction costs by 5%. They further suggested that these costs should be included in capital planning. The committee noted that Alignment of UC policy with the State of California goals for Climate Protection would move the target date for carbon neutrality for scope 3 sources (indirect upstream and downstream greenhouse gas emissions) from 2050 to 2045. CPB suggested that the campus can meet this target goal based on projection of the current multi-year declining trend in GHG emissions. The last comment offered by CPB suggested that UCSC could comply with the Zero Waste policy under the revised schedule given the overall trend of decreasing waste on our campus. They make note, however, of the reversal in this trend in 2021, and suggested this could be due to COVID, and that the units responsible for monitoring this should take note and develop ways to address this issue.

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

Sincerely,

P. Gallagher

Patty Gallagher, Chair
Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

encl: Senate Committee Responses (Bundled)

cc: Roger Schoenman, Chair, Committee on Academic Freedom (CAF)
Michael Hance, Chair, Committee on Research
Dard Neuman, Chair, Committee on Planning and Budget
Matthew Mednick, Executive Director, Academic Senate

November 16, 2022

PATTY GALLAGHER, Chair
Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

Re: Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Patty,

CAF met on October 24, 2022, to review the proposed policy on sustainable practices. The committee strongly supports the goals of this policy and the promotion of sustainable practices. Members, however, wonder about the requirement to travel on airlines that engage in sustainable practices. We are concerned that this is not possible during research travel in some parts of the world and would ask for some clarification of the policy to allow for exceptions.

Members also strongly supported the promotion of remote work. We note that Senate meetings have increased participation since the move to Zoom. Remote work also allows for the conduct of fieldwork when not teaching while continuing to perform departmental service. These are all great benefits of the flexibility afforded by remote work. However, CAF members also felt strongly that students benefit from face to face interaction as part of the university experience and recommend that the freedom to work remotely is balanced against the educational mission of the faculty.

Finally, CAF members would suggest that the meaning of "plant based" be clarified in the policy. It is currently not clear if the intention is to promote meat substitutes, the consumption of fruits and vegetables or all of the above.

Sincerely
/s/
Roger Schoenman, Chair
Committee on Academic Freedom

cc: Michael Hance, Chair, Committee on Research (COR)
Dard Neuman, Chair, Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB)

December 9, 2022

PATTY GALLAGHER, Chair
Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

Re: Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Patty,

The Committee on Research (COR) met on November 29, 2022, to review the proposed updates to the existing Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. In our review, we checked for recent changes in response to COR's review of the same policies in the 21/22 academic year, and considered the overall impact of these policies on faculty research.

We agree that the UC Santa Cruz should make increasing use of clean energy to support campus operations. We also note that reliable sources of energy are essential to support campus research. Our campus has historically relied on COGEN to supplement power from the grid, which has sadly still not completely eliminated the impact of power cuts on campus research. Increased use of renewable energy can, if properly deployed, help to mitigate the impacts of downtime of traditional energy sources such as the grid and COGEN, while also reducing our carbon footprint. We encourage any implementation of renewable energy that supports campus operations to develop metrics of success that include resiliency and uptime of campus electricity sources along with decreased environmental impacts.

We also noted that the updated policies do not include any guidance or plan for electronic waste. We would welcome inclusion of policies and resources that enable campuses to more effectively collect and process electronic waste in ways that limit any adverse environmental impacts. Along similar lines, support for programs that replace power-hungry equipment with more efficient models may help to reduce electronic waste overall while lowering our carbon footprint. An example of such a program is the UCSC Green Labs Program.[1]

Finally, we continue to encourage the University of California Office of the President to work closely with campuses with financial and planning assistance that will be necessary to meet these new policies.

Sincerely,
/s/
Michael Hance, Chair
Committee on Research

cc: Roger Schoenman, Chair, Committee on Academic Freedom (CAF)
Dard Neuman, Chair, Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB)

[1] See UCSC Sustainability Office at https://sustainability.ucsc.edu/engage/green-certified/green-labs/index.html

October 31, 2022

Patty Gallagher, Chair
Academic Senate

RE: CPB Review of Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Patty,

The Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) reviewed the proposed updates to the existing Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices on October 20, 2022. We focused specifically on some of the more impactful changes, including Green Building Design, Climate Protection, and the Zero Waste program, while noting that other changes such as the UC Healthy Vending Guidelines and Sustainable Foodservice are excellent opportunities to continue enhancing UC's implementation of sustainable practices.

The Green Building Design changes would mandate all new buildings move from LEED Silver to LEED Gold, as well as restricting use of fossil fuels (i.e., natural gas) for heating unless connected to a central facility. CPB notes that a reasonable estimate for additional up-front construction costs is in the order of 5%, and that based on past projects the additional cost may or may not be recouped during the lifetime of the building.[1] This has potential implications for our campus budget and capital planning, particularly for the housing initiative, given that new housing might not be heated using the Cogen plant, resulting in a second incremental increase in cost for heating if more expensive sustainable energy sources are required. These additional costs should be included in capital planning.

Alignment of UC policy with the State of California goals for Climate Protection would move the target date for carbon neutrality for scope 3 sources (indirect upstream and downstream greenhouse gas emissions) from 2050 to 2045. We note that UCSC's current trajectory should easily meet this goal based on projection of the current multi-year declining trend in GHG emissions. We note that the overall trend of decreasing waste on our campus should allow UCSC to comply with the Zero Waste policy under the revised schedule. However, we also note that the downward trend was sharply reversed in 2021 (last available data), presumably due to COVID, and we encourage the responsible units to consider how best to address the issue.

Sincerely,

Dard Neuman, Chair
Committee on Planning and Budget

cc: CAF Chair Schoenman
COR Chair Hance

[1] Erin A. Hopkins (2015) LEED Certification of Campus Buildings: A Cost-Benefit Approach, Journal of Sustainable Real Estate, 7:1, 99-111, DOI: 10.1080/10835547.2015.12091877

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BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS (BOARS)
Barbara Knowlton, Chair
knowlton@psych.ucla.edu

Assembly of the Academic Senate
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607-5200

January 18, 2023

SUSAN COCHRAN, CHAIR
ACADEMIC COUNCIL

RE: Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Susan,

The Board of Admission and Relations with Schools (BOARS) has reviewed the Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices, and we support these efforts by UC to enact more specific policies to advance our attainment of climate goals. Improvements to housing construction, as well as other areas, could be leveraged in admissions recruitment. We caution, though, that should these efforts be insufficiently funded or implemented, reputational damage could result.

Thank you for your support,

Sincerely,

Barbara Knowlton
BOARS Chair

cc: Members of the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS)
Executive Director Lin

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UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
Julian Schroeder, Chair
jischroeder@ucsd.edu

ACADEMIC SENATE
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

December 20, 2022

ACADEMIC SENATE CHAIR SUSAN COCHRAN

Dear Chair Cochran,

It is very encouraging to read that UC is working on a plan to substantially reduce our carbon footprint through the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices. We are writing with feedback and suggestions and proposing more explicit inclusion of cost-effective measures in the plan.

A substantial part of energy use and carbon emissions on UC campuses results from heating, cooling and lighting of existing buildings. If we wish to reduce our carbon footprint on UC campuses soon, cost-effective upgrades to existing buildings should be expanded, in addition to the long-term (and slow) major renovations and new building processes.

The document refers to “major renovations” of existing buildings. However, these are unlikely to target many of our structures soon. Simple improvements and fixes could reduce substantial carbon emissions and operating costs. Some recent examples on one of our campuses include major renovations of older buildings with gutting the interior spaces. However, no major efforts were made to improve exterior insulation. Surprisingly the term “insulation” is not found in the whole Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices document (read and searched “insulat”).

Campuses have done some major and costly renovations on older buildings, making them “more modern” inside, but again usually no major insulation towards saving heating and cooling energy was included.

Another example is in a number of our buildings the hallway lights have been on for decades (there are no on/off light switches and no motion sensors on the floors). That would be unlikely in a home or most businesses today but remains the case in many older buildings.

In addition to the slow large major renovation plans, substantial and rapid carbon emission reductions could be achieved UC wide by simple changes in numerous older buildings. An engineer or simple task force on each campus could identify these much-

less-costly upgrades ASAP, if we are serious about reducing emissions on a relevant time scale.

Cost effective upgrades could include:

- installing light switches where they are missing and continuous lighting prevails.

- installing motion sensors to turn off lighting when it is not used (very cheap and saves carbon and $).

- There are still many buildings using old fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent lighting, rather than LED lighting. These are easy, very cheap and cost- and energy-cutting fixes compared to the slow process of “major renovations”.

- identifying very poor insulation that can be remedied relatively cost-efficiently (such as roof insulation, or leaky windows and doors in those cases where they are easily repaired). This is much more effective than gutting the inside of buildings and doing little or nothing to improve exterior insulation, not even the windows were improved in recent renovations, while spending millions on new dry walling etc. in many of our buildings. In these cases, funding from the state and local agencies may leverage insulation investments while reducing costs.

- identifying buildings with roofs that have space and could easily accommodate solar panels (intermediate expense, but on some building roofs there is a lot of space). In these cases funding from the state and local agencies may leverage investments while reducing costs.

- identifying old and easy to replace high energy consuming equipment and having an energy saving equipment fund that individuals could apply to (think the untold aging energy guzzling -80 ºC and -20ºC freezers on our campuses and newer more efficient models).

As such, UC could enter a first rapid cost-efficient phase that is highly pragmatic and which would reduce our operating costs and carbon footprint quite quickly, while proving to the state legislature and our communities that we are serious about reducing emissions. Businesses, hotels etc. have done such upgrades a long time ago to make their bottom-line work, while at UC the simple fixes are often overlooked.

Another question that comes up in reading this policy document: Has anyone modeled how many years it would take to reduce carbon emissions, by building new buildings and doing major renovations, for which the construction includes tons of new carbon emissions. We recognize the need for new buildings and the positive long-term impact and support these efforts. However, an actual model from energy experts would be helpful for proper planning.

Lastly, the above are not the only fixes. As indicated in the proposal, UC would need to research generating sustainable energy, including at off campus sites (wind, solar). This may include partnering with others who have the necessary land and co-investments, towards UC's goal of reaching zero carbon emissions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julian Schroeder
Chair, UCIE

c: James Steintrager, Academic Senate Vice Chair
Monica Lin, Academic Senate Executive Director
Michael LaBriola, Academic Senate Assistant Director
UCIE Members

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UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON FACULTY WELFARE (UCFW)
Terry Dalton, Chair
tdalton@uci.edu

Assembly of the Academic Senate
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607-5200

January 18, 2023

SUSAN COCHRAN, CHAIR
ACADEMIC COUNCIL

RE: Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Susan,

The University Committee on Faculty Welfare (UCFW) has discussed the Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices, and we have several comments. UCFW finds the proposed revisions insufficient to accomplish UC's goals regarding sustainability and belie the urgency of the situation. We appreciate the call for higher Leed standards for new buildings, but this will not help poorly ventilated buildings in need of retrofitting. The proposed revisions rely on assumptions about the availability of public transit and affordable housing which do not match actual experiences. The best solution is to cut emissions, not to try to mitigate their impacts.

We think the proposed revisions represent a mind-set from five years ago, and they will not position UC as a leader in the field. We note that world renowned UC faculty experts in climate change do not seem to have been involved in UCOP-led efforts.

We unanimously call for a stronger, bolder proposal.

Sincerely,

Terry Dalton, UCFW Chair

Copy: UCFW
Monica Lin, Executive Director, Academic Senate
James Steintrager, Academic Council Vice Chair