



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

Kenneth Barish
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December 9, 2025

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

RE: Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Ahmet,

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

School of Public Policy faculty executive committee:

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

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

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

School of Medicine faculty executive committee:

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

College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences:

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

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

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

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

College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences faculty executive committee:

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

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

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

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

Committee on Planning and Budget:

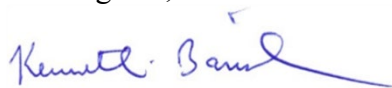
- With respect to the provisions related to green buildings, what spurred this on? Is there a history of buildings not complying with functional requirements related to the
- actual performance of the building?
Could environmental standards that are already set be met; and yet, performance goals
- not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

Committee on Physical Resources Planning:

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

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

Best regards,



Kenneth Barish

Professor of Physics and Astronomy and Chair of the Riverside Division

Encl.

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



School of Business
Anderson Hall
900 University Avenue
Riverside, CA 92521

October 10, 2025

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

From: Jerayr Haleblan
Chair, School of Business Executive Committee

Re: (Consultation): *Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices*

Please let this memo serve as an official notification that the School of Business Executive Committee has no comments or concerns on the proposals noted above.



November 14, 2025

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

FROM: Iván Aguirre, Interim Chair
CHASS Executive Committee

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

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

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

Also, from an equity perspective, the Committee believes the policy should include provisions outlining how the University plans to address disparities in capacity among various locations and whether additional resources will be allocated to campuses with fewer assets to implement these changes. This is especially critical in view of current plans for state funding cuts across the UC, but especially with respect to campuses such as UC Riverside and UC Merced. We advise the inclusion of language recognizing resource imbalances and the establishment of a framework—

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

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

November 21st, 2025

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

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

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

Prof. Barish,

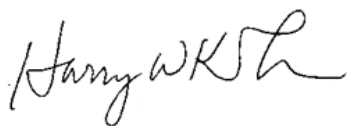
The CNAS Faculty Executive Committee has reviewed the proposed revisions to the presidential policy on sustainable practices at their November 18th meeting and had comments to provide to the Senate.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Tom".

Harry Tom, Ph.D

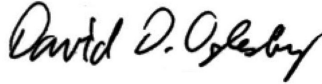
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

PLANNING AND BUDGET

November 20, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: David Oglesby, Chair
Committee on Planning and Budget

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David D. Oglesby".

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

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

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



Academic Senate

PHYSICAL RESOURCES PLANNING

November 21, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Academic Senate

From: Brian Siana, Physical Resources Planning Committee Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Siana", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

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

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

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

11/07/2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate
and Cherysa Cortez, Executive Director of the UCR Academic Senate

From: Kinnari Atit, Ph.D., Faculty Chair of the School of Education Executive Committee

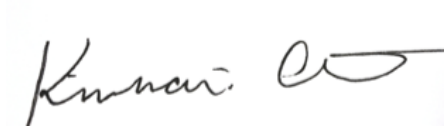
Subject: School of Education FEC's Comments on *Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices*

The SOE Executive Committee reviewed the *Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices*. Comments/feedback were solicited at our executive committee meeting and via email.

The SOE Faculty Executive Committee has no comments on this document.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kinnari Atit", followed by a stylized flourish or checkmark.

Kinnari Atit
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee
School of Education
University of California, Riverside
Email: kinnari.atit@ucr.edu



November 12, 2025

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

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


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

Dear Ken,

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

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

Yours sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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

TO: Ken Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

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

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

Date: November 16, 2025

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

We do recommend a few considerations, though.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

