

January 4, 2017

To: Dylan Rodriguez

Riverside Division Academic Senate

From: Daniel Jeske, Chair

Committee on Faculty Welfare

Re: Sustainability Ad Hoc Report

The Faculty Welfare Committee met on November 28, 2017 to discuss the Ad-hoc Committee on Sustainability Report that was dated October 23, 2017. The committee recognizes the proposal as a step in the right direction toward restructuring how the various sustainability efforts are managed by the office. However, the committee also felt the role of the proposed Vice-Provost of academic programs needs more explanation and/or thought. For example, what are the long-term academic goals of the office? How will current sustainability research at the University be integrated into the objectives of the office?

The committee also felt that the three proposed pillars should collectively report to a higher-level administrator on the campus, perhaps either the Provost or the Vice-Provost for Undergraduate Education. The thinking here was that unless this type of reporting structure was employed, there may not be a fair arbitration process to smoothly overcome situations where the three pillars had competing objectives. In particular, it was noted that the proposed academic program lead is a Vice-Provost while the lead for the other two pillars are Vice-Chancellors, which left the committee wondering if the perspective of academic programs might too often lose out when discussing priorities.