



October 31, 2018

To: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Sandra Kirtland Turner, Acting Chair, Executive Committee
College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

Re: Campus Review: Summary White Paper on RUSD STEM High School on the UCR campus.

The CNAS Executive Committee discussed the Summary White Paper on the RUSD STEM High School move to the UCR campus at its October 2 and October 16, 2018 meetings. The reaction to the paper and proposal was mixed. While the Executive Committee is supportive of connections and outreach to K-12 STEM education, there was confusion and some dissatisfaction regarding the planning process for moving the RUSD STEM Academy. On the positive side, faculty note the importance of engaging with K-12 STEM education and see this project as a way to facilitate connections between faculty, graduate and undergraduate students interested in education, and high school students and educators. Faculty note that this provides a “built-in broader impacts” for grant proposals. However, other faculty expressed frustration with the lack of transparency and involvement of the Academic Senate in the development and content of the MOU. Some faculty expressed concern about the commitment of faculty time (on page 4 of the MOU) while other faculty were confident that such involvement would be entirely voluntary. There was also concern about the site selection for the school; faculty commented that we should ensure that our campus’ growth is properly accommodated before committing physical space to RUSD. There were further concerns about whether issues of traffic and parking had been adequately addressed.

Overall the CNAS Executive Committee has indicated a desire for a presentation from individuals involved in the planning process for the RUSD-STEM Academy that would outline the proposal and ensure sufficient faculty input.

While this memo briefly outlines the most common commentary I have received, I am also willing to share redacted statements from individual faculty in full if these would be useful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Kirtland Turner".

Sandra Kirtland Turner, Acting Chair
CNAS Executive Committee