


COMMITTEE ON FACULTY WELFARE

October 22, 2018

To: Dylan Rodriguez
Riverside Division Academic Senate

From: Daniel Jeske, Chair 
Committee on Faculty Welfare

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

FWC met on 10/16/2018 to review the "Summary White Paper on RUSD STEM High School on the Campus of the University of California, Riverside." FWC recognizes the white paper as a helpful step in the dialogue between the campus administration and the Academic Senate. However, FWC has concerns about the initiatives that are not sufficiently addressed in the white paper. In particular,

1. The full scope of which sites were considered for the high school is not clear. Were the three site options listed in the white paper the only sites considered? If so, why, and if not, what were the issues with the other alternatives? One committee member who attended the September 25, 2018 community meeting (which included neighborhood citizens, UCR faculty and staff, UCR students, and RUSD officials) on the initiative reported considerable resistance from the attendees to the currently proposed location. In sum, FWC feels a sufficiently strong case for choosing the proposed locations has not yet been made.

2. In addition to community concerns about traffic congestion issues, other constituencies also have concerns due to vagueness on several points of the white paper and attached materials. As expressed in a recent Highlander article (1 October 2018), UCR students are concerned about how this will impact the availability of faculty, with whom face-time is often limited, and the already long lines and seating shortage in the various campus dining venues. The article also raised the issue of the appropriateness of high school students being in such close proximity to college student life and the residence halls, noting that this creates potentially unsafe conditions and issues of university liability. Faculty in the sciences have been told there is no expectation that they participate in the STEM high school, but this is contradicted in the supplements to the white paper (e.g., item #1 in Exhibit A). As some of these issues are still under study, with answers forthcoming, FWC emphasizes the need to allow those studies to potentially change the course of the proposed plans.

3. FWC notes that the upcoming community meeting on November 1, 2018 has been advertised as a follow-up meeting that will provide answers to the many questions and concerns that were raised during the September 25, 2018 meeting. FWC anticipates the administration is aware of what questions and issues were raised and suggests an appropriate representative from the Chancellor's office and/or the Provost's office attend this second meeting to measure for themselves how the answers given are received by the involved constituents.