




**PLANNING & BUDGET**

February 18, 2021

To: Jason Stajich, Chair  
Riverside Division

From: Katherine Kinney, Chair   
Committee on Planning and Budget

**RE: [Systemwide Review] Proposed Policy: Proposed Presidential Policy BFB-BUS-43 Purchases of Goods and Services; Supply Chain Management**

The Committee on Planning & Budget (P&B) discussed the proposed Presidential Policy, BFB-BUS-43 Purchases of Goods and Services; Supply Chain Management at their February 16, 2021 meeting and had a number of concerns.

While the goal of supporting small business was found by many committee members to be laudable, we have deep concerns about adding layers of policy directives and procedures to the purchasing process, which on the UCR campus is already seen as cumbersome at best. We are unconvinced that training and communication will mitigate the risk of delaying purchases related to research. Many research related purchases have highly specific requirement with limited options for vendors. The proposal appears tone deaf to the actual problems already posed by the cumbersome requirements on purchasing. One member reported that small vendors have in fact refused to do business with UCR because of the reporting requirements, which as another point out require a certain level of legal and administrative capability. One member believed this initiative contradicts the responsibility to use state funds efficiently, while others acknowledge the appropriateness of aligning purchasing practices with University values. However, no member of the committee found the process outlined here likely to serve the best interests of small business or the faculty and campus.