COMMITTEE ON PHYSICAL RESOURCES PLANNING

October 22, 2020

To: Jason Stajich, Chair
   Riverside Division

From: Ben Bishin, Chair
   Committee on Physical Resources Planning

Re: Systemwide Review: Proposal 2020-21 Curtailment Program

The Committee on Physical Resources Planning reviewed the Proposal 2020-21 Curtailment Program. Members responded with the following:

Some members oppose the curtailment program while others are open to curtailment as part of a strategy to address the budget issues.

Curtailment will have a detrimental impact on maintaining physical resources as planning would be interrupted by the apparent ad-hoc taking of curtailment days by many people who "do not conform to standard conventions of days “at work” or “off work.”"

From a broader view, this seems like an appropriate approach to consider given the massive cuts the university is facing. But given the current lack of specific proposed curtailments it is hard to assess what the adverse impacts on physical resources might be.

It seems as though many of those directly affected would not be expected to actually curtail activities (e.g., academic faculty) who would just take this curtailment in the form of salary cuts. For those workers, the proposal seems to lie outside the committee's jurisdiction. This aspect of the plan would seem to lie outside of the committee's jurisdiction given the undefined portions of the plan.

The document states that “Campuses would identify essential workers who would be exempt from the program” presumably because their work is important. However, later it is stated that “Exempt employees will not be allowed to perform any work during the curtailment period in order to comply with provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).” These two statements seem to conflict each other.

Will each campus be responsible for how to implement the curtailments? Who will be exempt, etc., but the process by which each campus will make these decisions (e.g., presumably some working group or groups would be formed?) is also not stated in the proposal.