PLANNING AND BUDGET

April 3, 2023

To: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair
   Riverside Division

From: Peter Atkinson, Chair
   Committee on Planning and Budget


The Planning and Budget Committee voted 9 to 2 in favor of the new undergraduate minor in Planetary Sciences. Those opposed raised two concerns:

1.) Item 10. They believed that it was inevitable that any new major or minor, no matter the size of the enrollment, would impact the bureaucratic burden of the department, especially considering that UC Riverside is chronically understaffed. As such, these members requested that the proponents of this minor consider their response in this context.

2.) Item 11. The single supporting letter from the chair of Earth and Planetary Sciences was seen as being insufficient, especially considering that this proposed minor may be of interest to faculty with the Department of Physics and Astronomy, especially if this department has a related program.

Related to the points raised about the first concern above, the entire committee recommends that the instructions for Item 10 be edited to recognize the chronic staffing problem at UCR. A possible example could be the addition of a sentence such as: “In addressing possible impacts, please be aware of the understaffing of offices at UC Riverside, recognizing that even small additions to staff workload may have disproportionate impacts on the operation of relevant offices.”