COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PERSONNEL

April 28, 2023

To: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair
Riverside Division Academic Senate

From: Jang-Ting Guo, Chair
Committee on Academic Personnel

Re: CAP’s Response to Proposed Draft Guideline/Policy on Research Labs

In its 4/12/2023 meeting, CAP discussed the proposed Draft Guideline/Policy on Research Labs. The committee commended the effort toward better utilization of the campus resource and a practice of assignment of research space based on an alignment between the researcher’s needs and the design capabilities of campus research space. Below are our comments and suggestions.

- Regarding point #2: “… the allocation of campus space from the Provost is made to the Org head. There is [no] approval to further delegate this to a lower level in the Org.” In practice and also in some other campus space policies, the Department Chair is often involved in the space assignment. A clarification is needed.

- Regarding point #3: “…lab space uses be reviewed every five years … to evaluate the utilization of the space, the number of PIs and graduate students using the space, the amount of external funding, etc.” How and why are these specific parameters identified to be in the review process? Are these review criteria consistent with the current campus space policy?

- Regarding point #4: “… revision to the existing process for campus research lab allocations,” and “… to evaluate design capacity, carry this information in our automated space management system, and work to focus reuse on the design capacity of that lab/building”. How would this proposed mechanism be carried out? More details are needed. For example, if one college/department could not offer a PI the suitable space in the allocation without expensive renovation, what is the process to obtain space from another college/department?

- Regarding point #4: “Assigning a PI to a research lab that is contrary to that lab’s design capability should require extraordinary approval (at the Provost level).” Mis-alignment can still occur if the entire campus has no suitable existing space.

- Regarding point #4: it should be pointed out that it is equally undesirable to underutilize the lab space in space assignment, e.g. using a wet lab space for a dry lab or less demanding usage.