May 10, 2024

TO: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

FROM: Wesley Leonard, Chair
CHASS Executive Committee

RE: Report Review: Sustainability, the Environment and Climate Crisis Ad Hoc Committee Report

The CHASS Executive Committee discussed the Report Review: Sustainability, the Environment and Climate Crisis Ad Hoc Committee Report. The committee supports the commendable goal of increasing sustainability and strengthening sustainability education on UC campuses, but has the following concerns and comments about the report.

1. There is concern about the way sustainability decisions get made as a top-down rather than collaborative process. Would the Sustainability Committee housed in the Senate actively participate in the decision-making processes?

2. Who will be responsible for ensuring that courses, and curriculum more broadly, include sustainability-focused learning outcomes? We believe this responsibility calls for a designated position with this focus.

3. There was a suggestion that instead of having a Sustainability Committee in the Senate there be a joint committee between the Senate faculty and the sustainability offices so that decisions can be made collaboratively rather than unilaterally.

4. Many faculty have a lot of expertise in Sustainability Studies and related fields, but there are no channels to use their expertise to communicate to the Administration at the system and the campus levels. There need to be more formal pathways to institute new ideas and change regarding sustainability.