COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

May 3, 2024

To: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair
Riverside Division

From: David Weisbart, Chair
International Education

Re: [Campus Review] SECC Ad Hoc Committee Report

The Committee on International Education reviewed the Sustainability, the Environment and Climate Crisis Ad Hoc Committee Report at their April 4, 2024, meeting, are generally supportive of the report, and offer the following:

The report is well-prepared, and we support the recommendation to make the ad hoc SECC committee into a standing SECC committee. We suggest that improving faculty's awareness of the rating system and scoring procedure would support the committee's goal to improve UCR's AASHE STARS ratings. Incentives may also be helpful to encourage the creation of new courses around sustainability, especially in colleges that traditionally offer fewer courses with such themes (e.g., CHASS, Business). Among other possibilities, incentives might include teaching reductions, summer salary, or research funds. We also recommend that an emphasis be placed on interdisciplinary collaboration.

Sustainability is especially significant to international education. Education abroad programs involve a significant carbon output, and we should keep track of this output with a carbon footprint calculator. Students and faculty involved should be encouraged to participate in carbon footprint offset activities.

We wish to inform the SECC Ad Hoc committee about two organizations that are involved in international education and climate change:

Green program https://thegreenprogram.com
CANIE organization https://canie.org