FACULTY WELFARE

May 3, 2024

To: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Abhijit Ghosh, Chair
Committee on Faculty Welfare

RE: [Campus Review] Report Review: Sustainability, the Environment and Climate Crisis (SECC) Ad Hoc Committee Report

The Committee on Faculty Welfare (CFW) reviewed the Sustainability, the Environment and Climate Crisis (SECC) Ad Hoc Committee Report. CFW had the following comments:

- Establishing a new, standing SECC Committee will be a good initiative. This certainly gives Senate faculty a voice on important issues around sustainability (planning, education, and research).

- Overall, it seems that the SECC Committee will be mainly coordinating with or guiding other committees (e.g., the Physical Resources Planning Committee; and the Committee on Planning and Budget) on sustainability issues. It remains unclear how this coordination/consultation will work effectively. It seems like the committee will meet with other committees to establish the elements of collaboration.

- The big change in the proposed R’Earth seems to be providing a new leadership structure for the Office of Sustainability—a new position for Vice Provost of Sustainability (VPS) and revising the Sustainability Office title to Director or Associate Vice Chancellor. There can be two ways to view this, with the following views being to some degree antithetical to each other:
  
  1. This move will strengthen the office, and the responsibilities outlined for the VPS position can certainly be helpful for our campus.
  
  2. Conversely, adding more administration, without also adding more faculty, may not be desirable.