

November 21st, 2025

TO: Kenneth N. Barish, Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

FROM: Harry Tom, Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and  
Agricultural Sciences

SUBJECT: [Systemwide Review] Proposal: Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable  
Practices

Prof. Barish,

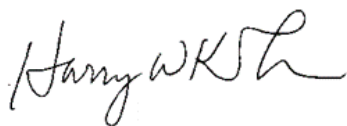
The CNAS Faculty Executive Committee has reviewed the proposed revisions to the presidential policy on sustainable practices at their November 18th meeting and had comments to provide to the Senate.

The committee is in agreement that the goals of this proposal are very aspirational, but feel that more reasonable expectations and timeframes should be provided. The proposal indicates that by 2026 we are supposed to have 100% clean energy at all UC locations, but we are already not meeting this standard, given that we aren't currently buying clean energy here at UC Riverside. Who is going to enforce this? How is this going to be implemented in the next two months?

There are also concerns about the costs that will be incurred for new facilities and to renovate older facilities, many of which we have here on campus, that need major upgrades. If there is going to be a requirement for a gold or platinum standard, the costs may be too high to renovate existing structures and this doesn't take into account the additional fire code requirements that have to be addressed as well, when renovations occur. Where is the money going to come from to pay for these additional expenses?

The committee does not object to the proposed changes, but are concerned for the growth of the campus if this policy hinders additional expansions and much needed improvements to existing campus structures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Tom".

Harry Tom, Ph.D

Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences