

TO: Ken Barish, Chair  
Riverside Division

FR: Kurt Schwabe, Chair   
Executive Committee, School of Public Policy

RE: **[Comments] Re: Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices**

Date: November 16, 2025

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The Executive Committee of the School of Public Policy has reviewed the **Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices**. We appreciate the effort and recommendations provided by the Sustainability Steering Committee and are in general agreement with the approved policy updates.

We do recommend a few considerations, though.

1. **Minor Editing**. We have two minor editing suggestions from within the document.

Suggestion 1. We suggest reconsidering the definition for Indirect Potable Reuse as defined on page 7:

“Indirect Potable Reuse: Treated wastewater blended with groundwater or other water sources reused as potable or non-potable water.”

It isn’t clear here that with IPR the wastewater is introduced to some environmental buffer for purification and dilution purposes, such as injection into groundwater systems or into surface water reservoirs, and then extracted later for introduction into the water system as potable or non-potable water. The current definition suggests that blending alone—e.g., with some groundwater that has been pumped—immediately following treatment would suffice.

Suggestion 2. In Section H. Sustainable Foodservices, C.i., it reads:

“Each Campus and Health Location will procure 25% plant-based food by 2030 and strive to procure 30% by 2030.”

We suspect that the later reference to 2030 is perhaps supposed to be some later time period as the initial commitment is to achieve 25% by 2030.

2. **Two Comments on the New Section 2. Commute**.

One challenge to (2a) solely using surveys to track commuter mode split is that response rates for such surveys are frequently extremely low. The University may want to consider supplementing survey data with available administrative data (such as the number of

entries into parking lots, the number of parking permits sold, and the number of transit rides taken using University passes).

Additionally, policies such as (2c) “Foster accessible, equitable, and sustainable transportation options with a commitment to safe access and a focus on meeting the needs of underrepresented and underserved communities” are relatively broad and may be difficult to measure the degree to which success is being achieved. Listing at least some defined milestones that could reasonably be made available at all locations (such as pretax commuter benefit cards) may be beneficial.

