



Academic Senate

PHYSICAL RESOURCES PLANNING

March 24, 2026

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Academic Senate

From: Brian Siana, Physical Resources Planning Committee Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Siana", written over a light blue grid background.

Re: *[Systemwide Review] (Proposal) Proposal to Establish a Systemwide Academic Senate Committee on Climate Change and Sustainability*

The Physical Resources Planning Committee (PRP) reviewed the *Proposal to Establish a Systemwide Academic Senate Committee on Climate Change and Sustainability*. PRP appreciates the proposed committee as a means of centralizing sustainability efforts and maintaining momentum across the system. The committee agrees with benefits of establishment identified within the proposal including a freer exchange of sustainability strategies across campuses, and an improved ability to efficiently identify and prioritize campuses for decarbonization. Deliberations on the former and future potential financial savings for decarbonization studies and implementation across the system further supported the establishment of a sustainability committee at the system level.

Recently (June 2024), the UCR Senate Executive Council decided *not* to have a standing committee on Sustainability, Environment and the Climate Crisis, as recommended by the Sustainability, the Environment and Climate Crisis Ad-Hoc Committee ([report](#)). Instead, the Executive Council recommended that these issues be dealt with by existing committees such as Physical Resources Planning, Planning & Budget, Diversity Equity & Inclusion, and Faculty Welfare. Therefore, PRP does not necessarily recommend establishment of a Riverside Division sustainability committee. However, it is critical that sustainability expertise is present in relevant UCR committees (e.g. PRP, Planning & Budget) and in a Riverside division representative in the systemwide committee.