




March 25, 2026

TO: Ken Barish, Chair
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

FROM: Iván Aguirre, Interim Chair 
CHASS Executive Committee

RE: Proposal to Establish a Systemwide Academic Senate Committee on Climate
Change and Sustainability

The CHASS Faculty Executive Committee reviewed the proposal to establish a systemwide academic senate committee on climate change and sustainability and is in enthusiastic support, particularly as the University is navigating its climate goals and its relationship with AI industries, which the committee considers of utmost importance in this regard. We firmly believe that any conversation around climate and sustainability at the University and Campus levels must happen alongside relationships with AI and their environmental impact.

The FEC noted some comments in the discussion, specifically about appropriate Senate support for this committee in staffing, as well as in the formation of the committee. The FEC recommends at least two graduate and undergraduate representatives to address any power imbalances, and to promote more engagement and conversation with this population of the University.

Lastly, the FEC noted that while UCR has an ad-hoc committee on climate change, there is no formal Senate committee and encourages the Senate to consider forming one, perhaps to engage with the new AI council and be able to address campus climate goals and challenges.