# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

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December,7 2021

Robert Horwitz, Chair
Academic Council

**RE:  Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices**

Dear Robert,

The Santa Cruz Division of the Academic Senate has completed its review of the  Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainability Practices with the Committees on Information Technology (CIT), Research (COR), and Planning and Budget (CPB) responding. All committees offered specific recommendations regarding the key changes brought forward in an effort to improve the readability and clarify the intent of the policy. Overall, they appreciated the desire to mitigate environmental impacts and update sustainability practices.

While generally supportive of the policy, CPB calls for a "bolder vision of the energy system that is necessary towards achieving these goals." This is echoed by CIT, which also suggests that "the university could be more aggressive with sustainability goals." The committees noted some omissions and provided  recommendations in areas lacking feasibility and edits where needed.

CIT advised that there was "little to no discussion of energy used for IT functions, including cooling" in the proposed revisions, while COR highlighted the "absence of a plan for electronic waste, such as reuse and recycling." These areas were not addressed in the proposal and their inclusion is recommended.
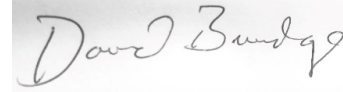
Several procedures seemed impractical to the committees. In particular, CPB strongly "recommends a firmer and perhaps shorter timeline towards exiting the 'transitional strategy' of using carbon offsets, and of moving towards truly carbon neutral or carbon negative energy." Both CPB and CIT were concerned about the Green Lab Program, with CPB recommending that "it might be better to specify the sorts of results or outcomes that are expected and indicate that the campus designates a body to oversee the process and collect the results, but leave the methodology to the individual campuses." CIT notes that "placing the financial and resource burden on individual PIs to update their labs would likely prevent compliance." More broadly COR urges the Office of the President to provide overall implementation and financial support for this policy.

In alignment with the recent divestment from fossil fuels, COR calls for more support for renewable energy use, with CIT noting "new UCSC solar plant provides 2% of campus energy. This could be increased dramatically with additional solar installations at UCSC and sister campuses."

Specific edits are called for by CPB in regards to two instances of outdated information and inconsistency with point 1a of the Green Building Design section.

As always, thank you for the opportunity to comment. I am enclosing the committee responses and hope these observations prove useful in the continued development of this important policy.

Sincerely,

David Brundage, Chair
Academic Senate, Santa Cruz

cc:     Peter Alvaro, Chair, Committee on Information Technology
        Jarmila Pittermann, Chair, Committee on Research
        Dard Neuman, Chair, Committee on Planning and Budget