September 16, 2021

CHANCELLORS
ACADEMIC COUNCIL CHAIR HORWITZ
LABORATORY DIRECTOR WITHERELL
ANR VICE PRESIDENT HUMISTON

Re: Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

Dear Colleagues:

Enclosed for systemwide review are proposed revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices.

The systemwide Sustainability Steering Committee is the governing body for the Sustainable Practices Policy and reviews the policy annually for required updates and revisions. This year, the Sustainability Steering Committee approved several policy updates to the Green Building Design, Climate Protection, Sustainable Transportation, Sustainable Water Systems, and Sustainability at UC Health sections. These changes included updating specific targets and adding additional requirements. In addition, a new Health and Well-Being section was added, and a number of minor revisions were made to clarify the intent and improve the readability of the policy.

The specific changes are summarized below by policy section:

- Green Building Design: Updated the section to reference a revised list of whole building performance targets that include 100% Lab Space and clarify the reporting process for the existing energy efficiency requirement for new buildings.
- Climate Protection: Included new provisions establishing criteria for any purchase of carbon offsets, added guidance to integrate environmental justice, adaptation, and resilience into each campus’s Climate Action Plan, and clarified that greenhouse gas emissions reductions should be maintained after the 2020 target date.
- Sustainable Transportation: Replaced the fleet targets with ones that better reflect State policy and technological advances and incorporated telecommuting into the commute goals.
- Sustainable Water Systems: Updated the section to make it easier to read and removed expired dates and details that are already covered by regulatory requirements.
- Sustainability at UC Health: Revised the water and waste goals for health locations so that the same targets are now applicable to each health location.
- Multiple changes were made throughout to better reflect guidance in the UC Policy Stylebook, minimize footnotes, move definitions into the text, define acronyms, standardize formatting, etc.

The Sustainable Practices Policy has been reviewed annually since its issuance in 2004 by the Sustainability Steering Committee and the working groups it formed to develop and implement each section of the policy. The review process includes the following three main steps:
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1. Each section in the policy is governed by a separate systemwide working group. Those working groups evaluate their respective policy sections annually and propose revisions as needed. Each working group consists of one or more stakeholders from each campus and health system. These are the individuals responsible for implementing the associated policy requirements and reporting on implementation progress at their respective campus or health system. The working groups make decisions based on consensus. For example, campus fleet managers all agreed on the updated fleet targets in this year’s proposed revisions.

2. The Sustainability Steering Committee reviews and discusses the proposed policy changes. The Sustainability Steering Committee includes senior management representation from every campus. This is usually the Vice Chancellor for Administration for campuses and the Chief Operating Officer from each health system. The committee also includes faculty appointed by the Academic Senate as well as appointed undergraduate and graduate student representatives and the Student Regent.

3. The Sustainability Steering Committee approves the recommended policy revisions.

This year’s proposed changes have gone through all three steps above. The only change the Sustainability Steering Committee made to the draft revisions recommended by the working groups was to align the waste and water targets so each health system has the same goal. Previously, some health systems had policy targets that were less aggressive than others. All health systems agreed to adopt the same more aggressive waste and water targets.

Systemwide Review

Systemwide review is a public review distributed to the Chancellors, the Chair of the Academic Council, the Director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and the Vice President of Agriculture and Natural Resources requesting that they inform the general University community, especially affected employees, about policy proposals. Systemwide review also includes a mandatory, 90-day full Senate review.

Employees should be afforded the opportunity to review and comment on the draft policy. Attached is a Model Communication which may be used to inform non-exclusively represented employees about these proposals. The Labor Relations Office at the Office of the President is responsible for informing the bargaining units representing union membership about policy proposals.

We would appreciate receiving your comments no later than December 15, 2021. Please submit your comments to Matthew.StClair@ucop.edu. If you have any questions, please contact Chief Sustainability Officer Matt St.Clair at Matthew.StClair@ucop.edu.

Sincerely,

Nathan Brostrom
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Enclosures:
1) Draft Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices (clean copy)
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2) Draft Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices (redline copy)
3) Model Communication

cc: 
President Drake
Provost and Executive Vice President Brown
Executive Vice Chancellors/Provosts
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Nava
Senior Vice President Bustamante
Vice President and Vice Provost Gullatt
Vice President Lloyd
Vice President Maldonado
Vice Provost Carlson
Vice Provosts/Vice Chancellors of Academic Affairs/Personnel
Deputy General Counsel Woodall
Associate Vice Provost Lee
Associate Vice President Phillips
Assistant Vice Provosts/Assistant Vice Chancellors/Directors – Academic Personnel
Executive Director Baxter
Executive Director and Chief of Staff Henderson
Executive Director Silas
Chief of Staff Kao
Chief of Staff Levintov
Chief of Staff Peterson
Chief of Staff Werdick
Chief Policy Advisor McAuliffe
Director Grant
Director St.Clair
Director Sykes
Associate Director Bell
Manager Crosson
Manager Smith
Analyst Durrin
Policy Advisory Committee