

March 28, 2018

Meghan Fay Zahniser, Executive Director
Association for the Advancement
of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Ms. Zahniser: 

I am pleased to verify that the University of California, Irvine's responses to AASHE's Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System are complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. UCI's commitment to sustainability is broadly evidenced across our teaching, research, and public service mission, and is embodied in campus operations.

UCI's commitment to sustainability as a core part of our mission is established in UCI's Strategic Plan. Our plan commits UCI to address significant societal challenges – particularly those related to health, energy, food, climate, and water – through the convergence of research from traditional academic fields. The plan directs UCI to partner with our local community, regional agencies, and businesses to develop new, more sustainable models for water resource management and energy production, delivery, and consumption. Finally, achieving an ethos of sustainability for all UCI students, faculty, and staff is identified as a key learning outcome in the plan.

Today, over 200 UCI faculty members collaboratively research and teach across an array of sustainability problems ranging from conservation biology to ocean health and water resource management; energy conservation, power generation, and transportation; derivative problems of global climate change including famine, disease, and poverty; and social issues such as land-use planning, environmental law, public health, and social justice. Sustainability research takes place in dozens of multidisciplinary research centers, and fundamental to our research enterprise is the engagement of our students, graduate students and undergraduates alike. Further, our research is used to inform policymakers worldwide on issues of importance to humans around the globe.

UCI students are engaged in a wide range of sustainability initiatives both inside and outside of the classroom. UCI provides sustainability-related courses in over 85 percent of academic departments across campus, and offers 23 sustainability-related student organizations for undergraduates and graduates to participate in sustainability service and leadership. The UCI Global Sustainability Resource Center serves as a hub for co-curricular sustainability programming, providing resources and education for all students through campus-wide outreach activities, community engagement and service, and internship opportunities. Such activities and opportunities include peer-to-peer education events, an orientation program for incoming freshman that teaches sustainability

leadership, a sustainability-focused immersive experience through the UCI Costa Rica program, and several internship programs working with sustainability professionals on campus and in the community.

As a complement to our research and teaching achievements, UCI's campus operations have been recognized as a national model for green operations. This includes UCI's campus energy systems, water systems, green building program, and transportation systems. As an example, UCI's Smart Labs energy efficiency program has been internationally recognized for its success in reducing laboratory energy use by up to 60 percent. Additionally, our water conservation program is on track to achieve a 50 percent per capita water use reduction in 2018, and UCI's sustainable transportation program features the first all-electric campus shuttle fleet in the US.

We applaud AASHE's efforts to develop consistent and meaningful metrics for evaluating campus sustainability activities, and I am proud to submit information on UC Irvine's success in this arena for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Wendell Brase
Associate Chancellor for Sustainability