



Office of the Chancellor

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May 23, 2013

Dr. Paul Rowland  
Executive Director  
Association for the Advancement  
of Sustainability in Higher Education  
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 100  
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Dr. Rowland:

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. UC Irvine's commitment to sustainability is decades old and broadly evidenced across its tripartite mission of teaching, research, and public service, as well as campus operations.

Indicative of this longstanding commitment is that fact that UC Irvine's Department of Earth System Science – the first academic unit anywhere devoted to studying the entire planet – celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary two years ago, in September 2011. In establishing the department, atmospheric scientist and founding Chair Ralph Cicerone – now President of the National Academy of Sciences – crafted a mission statement that read: “to detect changes in the Earth system (air, waters, and land), to quantify those changes, to understand their causes and to predict future changes on human time scales.” Similarly, UC Irvine's Master's Program in Urban and Regional Planning celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012. This program focuses on developing the next generation of professionals and policymakers dedicated to the betterment of neighborhoods, communities, and regions in the U.S. and abroad.

Today, nearly 200 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.

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Underpinning UC Irvine's sustainability actions is the University of California's comprehensive Sustainable Practices Policy, which establishes goals, objectives, and implementation timelines in eight areas of sustainable practices: green building, clean energy, transportation, climate protection, sustainable operations, waste reduction and recycling, environmentally preferable purchasing, and sustainable food service. The policy was issued in July 2004 and most recently updated in August 2011.

Based on the success of an aggressive energy-savings program dating back to the early 1990s, UC Irvine was invited to become an inaugural partner in President Obama's Better Buildings Challenge, which seeks to achieve a 20 percent improvement in energy efficiency by 2020. UC Irvine will attain this goal considerably before 2020 and has committed to achieving a 40 percent improvement by that date.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael V. Drake". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Michael V. Drake, M.D.  
Chancellor

cc: Wendell C. Brase, Vice Chancellor, Administrative & Business Services  
Chair, University of California Climate Solutions Steering Group