Committee on Physical Resources Planning  
Annual Report to the Riverside Division  
May 24, 2005

To be received and placed on file:

The Physical Resources Planning Committee met three times in full session this AY. The first meeting was at the Budget and Planning conference room F-101 Bannockburn with invited guests Tim Ralston and Nita Bullock. New committee members had a chance to get acquainted with campus planners and receive an update on building projects.

Committee member Douglas Ethell wrote a summary of needs in faculty day care and pre-school. The committee approved this as an action item. UCR responded to this request. The committee is grateful to the Senate and the campus for the positive reaction.

A separate ad hoc campus committee was organized including staff, faculty and emeriti members to address the long-term issue of the University Club. An action item was drawn up to move the existing organization to College Building South, and eventually into a structure to be built in one of several locations. The College of Humanities and Social Science ignored the action item; and announced they have no plans to leave College Building South. Considerable Senate and staff input was given to the off-campus company doing the present East South Campus Area study. As a result locating the proposed University Club structure became a top priority. The ad hoc committee is grateful to the Senate and Staff members who brought the issue to the attention of the campus planners.

In 2003-2004 the Genomics Building project was launched with little Academic Senate input. In 2004-2005 choice of faculty invited to take up residence in the building was done without Academic Senate input and this year new position(s) have apparently been issued to the Vector Biology group on campus directly from the CNAS Dean’s office with no input from the Academic Senate, or apparently from any academic Department. In view of the dire needs in some programs (such as lack of Developmental biology faculty members and great teaching needs in this area) lack of hiring and increased students in classrooms, this situation is appalling and suggests a disconnect between the Graduate Division, Dean’s office and the Academic Senate.

“The 60/215 freeway will become an increasingly important barrier in the future,” was in the 2003-2004 annual report. The same conclusion can be included this year as nothing has happened to change the picture except the Canyon Crest entrance to the campus has become a major vehicle/pedestrian conflict due to closure of lot 6 and all student foot traffic shifted to lot 30.

Individual members were assigned to attend numerous "building" committees, including the new Commons project, the Culver Center, the Geology renovation, the Boyce renovation and Webber hall renovation, the Arroyo Housing project.
(which did not meet). We attend regularly the CPAC (Capital Programs Advisory Committee) meetings, as well as the meetings of the Design Review Board. The Design Review Board meetings are especially useful in ensuring that proposed buildings fit into the overall campus design and layout. The external members of the Board are all architects.

“While the PRP committee has been involved through its representatives in many administrative planning and building decisions, the committee continues to feel that there is an urgent need for the administration to involve the Senate through the Standing Senate committees, including the PRP, at an earlier stage in the process, when decisions are made as to which buildings to build, in what order, and as to how the buildings are to be used,” was concluded in the 2003-2004 Annual Report. The same conclusion can be made this year.

It is disturbing that UCR decided to use state funding to build an Alumni Center and ignore the University Club. This further demonstrates a functional disconnection between the campus administration and the Academic Senate.

A major structural problem with the PRP Committee is serious lack of institutional memory and overlap. Even if PRP were to take a more active role in major building projects on the campus, there is no mechanism to pass on the wealth of experience gained by oversight from veteran members to new members. The faculty should be educated and kept current on what has been done and how it is being decided in terms of major building projects. One way to do this is with a web site that has all of the previous Annual Reports and has a history of each major building. At the moment this memory exists in the minds of a few administrators that tend to have greater longevity than the PRP members.

PHYSICAL RESOURCES PLANNING
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Addendum:
14 April 2005 memo from Douglas Ethell on renovation of Boyce Hall.