

## MEETING NOTES

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>Long Range Development Plan</b> Agricultural Operations Working Group	<b>MEETING DATE</b>	January 30, 2019
<b>SUBJECT</b>	LRDP Process Overview, Key Planning Assumptions		
<b>LOCATION</b>	Hinderaker Hall 0154	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Steven Baumgartner
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	(see attached)		

### Notes

#### Summary

- Very passionate set of individuals who feel strongly that the West Campus Ag program is key to mission, brand to UCR, a key differentiator to other ag programs, and adds an unreplaceable academic and social value to UCR, region and world.
- The current program is oversubscribed, and academic outputs are compromised by limited land, underserved infrastructure.
- As off campus areas for programs/projects can be appropriate for growth, they need to be the right spaces for economies of scale, quality of environments/soils, infrastructure and connectivity.
- This LRDP cannot treat the West Campus as a replaceable asset, but must find complementary land assets to enhance and elevate the program as it grows.

#### Existing use of West Campus

- The last long-range development showed a huge development on West Campus. That development was based on the assumption that this land would be replaced, comparable land and physical structure. That did not happen. Lost Marino Valley, acquired Coachella.
  - Coachella Valley is valuable land but for different types of research.
- The resources that are AgOps are fundamental. On the edge of being oversubscribed. At least 5 departments, at least 2 colleges, R Garden is campus wide, this has involved undergrads, when traditionally grad students have been heavily involved.
  - Unique agricultural research sets UC Riverside apart. 3-4 classroom tours. Growers and industry tours. Makes us unique as a land grant college. Many colleges are going the other direction, taking up agricultural land.
  - Preserving land from development will differentiate UCR from all other UC universities.
  - First exposure for undergraduates. Recruit applied scientists which is a huge national need.
- South of MLK we are at 95% capacity. Citrus and avocado breeders.
- North of MLK huge demand.
  - On the north side of MLK, 20-25 year effort of making research projects short term in case this land goes away. Need to identify length of projects on different parcels.
  - Intention to have 3-5 year projects, but growing longer with South of MLK 95% subscribed.
- Preparation of land before research projects. Requires rotation and multiple years of 'reclamation'.
  - Only appears to be unused
- Plant growth facility on East Campus. Late March ground breaking. Probably need to look at adding to greenhouse facilities or shipping containers or both.

- All existing green houses on East Campus will be demolished and replaced outside the campus loop road.
  - New facilities will replace the existing capacity, but won't provide any net gain.
- AgOps can better utilize and expand the research use of the land North of MLK if they are assured of its long-term use.
- Use of pesticides, need buffers for buildings. 150 feet from the doorstep, but it depends on the chemical. A quarter mile is the minimum for a lot of things we're doing.
- Rate of utilization by other uses that are non-instructional.

#### **Off-Campus Ag Research**

- Where is there additional suitable land? It comes down to logistics... we have a large support infrastructure and shop. At remote research plots, how are we to keep and watch tractors? Potential research areas in Redlands that do have scale, infrastructure, and historically citrus growing. 20 acres is a waste of time... but 100s of acres is viable, active preservation around it.
  - Avocado plots moving to UCR - will need 20 acres
  - Farm shop - 20 tractors, would need to move
  - Considered 20 acres south of town, with no infrastructure; moving tractors back/forth; researchers would have to travel 20-30 minutes to drive there
  - Redlands - possible to find large-scale land with infrastructure and citrus-growing history; need acquisition plan with multiple hundreds of acres; find those within agricultural preservation zones
- Transportation infrastructure between East and West Campus is limited. If we grow, we have to consider transportation. Proximity is important. Need to check on specimens.
  - Remote location will require staff support

#### **Status and Growth of Ag Research**

- Both preservation and expansion are important. Land based research isn't going away.
- Scientist that are working on cellular, molecular, and tissue levels. Move into translational science. This will require more space. Modeled systems to applied systems. That's where plant breeding is going.
- What's the arc of research funding?
- What is our identity as a campus? Continue to grow and excel in our land-based academic research.
- Ag Technology and Engineering are a growing partnership.
- The medical school is involved in a couple of projects. Community outreach and research.
- More resources needed for facilities and staffing.
- 40% increase. Need to utilize genomics that translate lab to field.
- We need a front door building where the current Ag / Ops building is. This building is in terrible shape. This would be a good showcase opportunity.

#### **Uncertainty**

- CARB development took away 18 acres; conversion away from ag research was done with minimal consultation. Chancellor took action.
- Hammer throw was relocated to West Campus. Athletics doesn't belong out there.
- Is the LRDP set in stone? It's owned by the Regents. Any change above is supposed to go to the Regents. However, the Chancellor historically can swoop in.
- Need a process of how land transitions will occur. CARB was on a 20-year research plot site that Tim Paine had hoped to extend.

### **Other Partnerships**

- Grow produces for Dining. Have an agreement in the formative stages.
  - MOU with dining for on-campus produce production, 7 acres
  - Food system for the University and City in a food desert. R Garden. Interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary. Community, Student, Dining, Teaching, and Research Garden.

### **LRDP Process**

- Dean of CNAS is part of LRDP Steering Committee and Executive Committee. CNAS is a substantive research body and demand.
- Send chair a list of questions, stories, data, and whitepaper needed.

### **ACTION ITEMS**




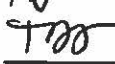

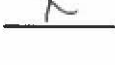
Next Steps: Working Group to prepare White Paper for distribution to the LRDP Steering Committee and other Working Groups. Needs to be a fact-based statement on importance of West Campus.

- Document relationship of Ag Ops to UCR. Academic and research partnerships with other colleges. External outreach programs.
- Document current use of West Campus, showing 95% utilization and near oversubscription. Map of active research, with research time frames. Guidelines for buffers (pesticides) and land revitalization between research projects.
- Minimum guidelines for replacement lands, if replacement is necessary. Proximity to East/West Campus. Minimum acreage. Infrastructure needs. Need for long-term commitment to agricultural uses. Preservation of adjacent parcels.
- Expectations for redevelopment of West Campus lands. Process for consultation, coordination with on-going long-term research projects.

Follow-up questions from the SmithGroup team for Working Group:

- Is the Working Group aware of specifics on how recent climate changes have impacted agricultural operations? Is UCR using any projections on the predictive patterns that the LRDP team should adopt? SmithGroup is working with CalAdapt site but perhaps there's an accepted set of assumptions for future patterns of temperature, precipitation, etc.
- Is there any metered data associated with Ag Ops wrt energy/water?
- Would a non-UCR agricultural research expert be helpful in supporting the Working Group to explore best practices and framing the importance of agricultural research for non-AgOps audiences?

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