



Meeting Summary
February 25, 2016

Council Members Present:

Carlo Colella, Vice President for Administration and Finance (Chair)
Linda Clement, Vice President for Student Affairs
Cindy Hale, Associate Vice President, Office of the Provost
Maureen Kotlas, Executive Director, Environmental Safety, Sustainability & Risk
Scott Lupin, Associate Director, Environmental Safety, Sustainability & Risk, and Director, Office of Sustainability
Cheryl Plainte, Associate Director, University Marketing & Communications
Mary-Ann Ibeziako, Director, Department of Engineering and Energy
David Cooper, Assistant Director of Systems Architecture, Division of IT
Samantha Bingaman, Undergraduate Student, Environmental Science and Policy
Todd McGarvey, Graduate Student, School of Public Policy

Meeting start time: 2:00pm

Meeting Highlights

Welcome and Review of December 10, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Carlo Colella welcomed the Council members and called the meeting to order. Meeting summary from December 10 was approved.

Carbon Offset Workgroup Report

To recap his visit from the Council meeting in December, Daniel Nees from the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) presented the Carbon Offset Workgroup Report recommendations.

Carbon Offset Workgroup Recommendations Discussion

The Council discussed which recommendations could make the most immediate impact in reducing the university carbon footprint.

The following recommendations were approved:

Recommendation 1: Focus on Direct Emissions Reductions before Offsets.

Recommendation 2: Create a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for On-Campus and Offset Projects. Approved with one amendment: Committee to evaluate Fund annually needs broader representation from different campus departments and units.

Recommendation 4: Offset Air Travel Emissions. Approved with one amendment: A Practice for Carbon Offset for Air Travel will be implemented university-wide by Fiscal Year 2018.

Recommendation 7: Seek Carbon Offsets that are Verified through Gold Standard or VCS or CCBS. Approved with one amendment: Carbon Offset Committee will continue to identify other ways of verifying carbon offset projects.

University Sustainability Fund Projects

Samantha Bingaman, representative of the Student Government Association, presented five University Sustainability Fund projects to the Council for review:

Solar Umbrellas for the Outdoor Aquatic Center

This grant will support the installation of 15 umbrellas equipped with solar-powered charging areas for small devices. University Recreation and Wellness will match funds. There is a 10-year warranty for the umbrellas. Project funding was approved for a 2-umbrella pilot program. The Council voted to approve the request of \$4,000.

Gemstone Team Breathe

Student-led research project designing passive bio-walls to filter out volatile organic compounds in a laboratory. Steve Cohan, Professor Practice, Plant Science and Landscape Architecture is the faculty representative for the project. The Council voted to approve the request of \$5,000.

MDSE Wellness Way Vegetated Swale

MDSE (Maryland Sustainability Engineering) Local Project Team proposes a retrofit of an existing stormwater management system on Wellness Way from a concrete runoff channel to a vegetated swale. The swale will absorb runoff. The Council voted to approve the request of \$25,325.

Anytime Dining: A Residential Dining Transformation

Dining Services requests funding for a dish conveyor belt for the North Campus Diner, complementing the switch to anytime dining. The Council voted to approve the request of \$50,000.

Modeling Organic Landscape Practices on Campus Lawns

The Student Sustainability Committee seeks to compare current traditional lawn treatment and organic alternatives in an experimental study. They will work with Facilities Management to determine a best location. The Council voted to approve the request of \$4,228.18.

Adjourn: 4:00pm