

Council members present:

Robert M. Specter, Vice President for Administration and Finance (Chair)
Linda Clement, Vice President for Student Affairs
John Farley, Assistant Vice President for Administrative Affairs
Scott Lupin, Associate Director, Environmental Safety and Director, Office of Sustainability
Joan Kowal, Energy Manager, Facilities Management
Bryan Quinn, Director of Technical Operations, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Jay Elvove, Manager, OIT
Eric Wachsman, Professor, Materials Science and Engineering
Ross Salawitch, Professor, Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
Steve Hutcheson, Professor, Cell Biology & Molecular Genetics
Carol Rogers, Professor, Journalism
Karina French, Undergraduate Student, English and Geography

Meeting start time: 9:00 am

Meeting Highlights

Council Vision and Value Statement

The Council reviewed a draft Vision and Values Statement, which was the result of the Council's October and November visioning sessions. With some editing during the meeting, the Council adopted the following as its final-draft Vision and Values Statement. The Council will vote on whether or not to adopt this statement during its February 2013 meeting.

Vision:

The University Sustainability Council will create a national model for a sustainable, "green" university. We envision a university that is at the forefront of research, knowledge, practice, and service on sustainability, thereby creating a resilient community today and for future generations.

Values:

- Committing to sustainability at all levels of the university.
- Protecting ecosystems upon which civilization depends.
- Leading through action to optimize our environmental impact.
- Making sustainability education and research an enduring priority.
- Partnering and collaborating with the campus and the community.
- Sharing best practices and lessons learned to enhance the sustainability of communities near and far.

The Council supports the sustainability goals of UMD's Strategic Plan and Climate Action Plan and will provide leadership, guidance, and senior level support in the achievement of these goals.

University Sustainability Fund – Student Subcommittee Recommendations

Karina French presented the Student Advisory Subcommittee's first round of recommendations for projects to be funded through the University Sustainability Fund. The subcommittee is still deliberating on most of the proposals but it proposed that four projects receive immediate funding. Those projects were:

- **Terps Heart the Tap - \$62,282.** Discussion: Project leaders must ensure none of the areas selected for installation are due for renovation. Also, project leaders should include water bottle filling station specifications in DCFS to create a campus standard.
- **Refrigerator Replacement Program - \$14,000.** Discussion: Project leaders should require the new-equipment vendor to take and recycle the old unit.
- **Improving Biogas Purification - \$3,542.28.**
- **Innovation Portal - \$17,000.** Discussion: Council members questioned if Smith IT or OIT had reviewed the proposal to ensure hosting capability. They also wanted to know if the final product will be open source. This proposal was tabled to gather more information from the project leaders.

ACTION – With one abstention due to conflict of interest, Council members unanimously voted in favor of approving funding for Terps Heart the Tap, Refrigerator Replacement Program, and Improving Biogas Purification.

University of Maryland Sustainability Progress Report 2012

This presentation and discussion was postponed until the February 2013 Council meeting.

Work Group Updates

Scott Lupin provided brief updates on each of the sustainability work groups.

- **Water Filling Stations** – developing an education and outreach strategy to educate the campus about the benefits of the forthcoming water bottle filling stations..
- **Sustainable Buildings and Energy Sources** – developing policies and strategies to achieve the 2015 and 2020 Climate Action Plan goals.
- **Water Use and Watershed Protection** – collecting and analyzing campus water use data to inform discussion about new policies and strategies.

- **Education for Sustainability** – Provost Rankin just approved this work group in December. David Cronrath, Dean of the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, agreed to chair the work group. Members will be invited to join the work group this winter.
- **Sustainable Food** – This work group has established five subgroups and launched the Sustainable Food Commitment.

Letter to President Loh about Climate Action

Thirty-seven student organizations signed a letter that was submitted to President Loh on November 15, 2012, “requesting an official document or statement from the University and your office by the end of this academic year that outlines the specific steps and plans to be taken to reach our next Climate Action Plan benchmarks in 2015 and 2020” (see **Appendix A**). President Loh responded to Kate Richard, Director of Sustainability for the Student Government Association, on November 29, 2012 and called on the Sustainable Buildings and Energy Sources Work Group and the University Sustainability Council to develop a strategy for meeting the Climate Action Plan goals (see **Appendix B**).

Other Business: Report on the Sustainability Studies Minor

Ross Salawitch asked if the directors of the Sustainability Studies Minor would provide a report this winter about the progress of the minor. The Office of Sustainability will contact directors to provide that report by the February meeting.

Adjourn: 11:00 am

Appendix A

November 15, 2012

Dear President Loh,

Several years ago, the University of Maryland became a charter signatory of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment and pledged to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. Since then, the culture of sustainability on campus has grown and significant progress has been made. It appears that we are on track to meet the 2012 Climate Action Plan benchmark, having reduced our emissions thus far by 15% - an accomplishment of which we should be proud.

Students have been at the forefront of many sustainability initiatives in recent years. More than a quarter million dollars of student fees have been allocated to campus green projects through the University Sustainability Fund. Student initiatives have included "Saving the Wooded Hillock," winning the America's Greenest Campus contest, building on-campus gardens, forming a Dining Services Sustainability Food Working Group, and educating students about the environmental impact of bottled water. As partners in this effort to create a sustainable campus, we want to know - what's next?

We are excited about the progress that has been made, but we are concerned at the lack of solid plans for the future. The Climate Action Plan does not show a clear path to achieving the university's goal of a 50% cut in emissions by 2020, which makes us wonder - how will we get there? President Loh, we know that the necessary future steps to reduce our campus emissions and meet our 2015 and 2020 targets will be difficult ones. It will certainly be a challenge. But we believe that we can rise to meet that challenge. As students, we have already demonstrated our ability and commitment to meeting this challenge in smaller ways. Our efforts show the continued student support and passion for sustainability at the University of Maryland. However, this work alone will not be enough. The large institutional and structural changes that will help the University reduce emissions 25% by 2015, 50% by 2020, and down to carbon neutrality by 2050, need to come from you and the rest of the administration.

This letter demonstrates how deeply we care and wish to see this happen. Meeting these goals would be a point of pride for the University. We want to remain a model of sustainability and innovation for college campuses across the nation. As a coalition of student organizations from the entire student body, from environmental groups to performance groups to cultural groups and more, we are all in support of this sentiment.

Of course, we are not simply writing to express a feeling. We want to see results and actions taken. Therefore, we are requesting an official document or statement from the University and your office by the end of this academic year that outlines the specific steps and plans to be taken to reach our next Climate Action Plan benchmarks in 2015 and 2020. Specifically, we are interested in the larger scale campus-specific initiatives and plans that will help us reach our targets. We will keep doing our work as students, but we cannot go at this alone. Large strides must be made, and many of them are beyond our reach as students. So we are asking for your continued commitment to this goal, and we are eager to hear about your plans for 2015 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Student Sustainability Committee of the Student Government Association
African Student Association
Am Ha'Aretz - UMD's Jewish Green Initiative
American Marketing Association
Campus Recreation Service Group Fitness Instructors
Club Field Hockey
Community Roots
Cooperative Housing at Maryland
Engineers Without Borders
Fair Trade UMD
FRIEND: Jewish and Muslim Women's Alliance
Habitat for Humanity
Interfaith Council
Iranian Student Foundation
J Street U
Maryland Food Collective
Maryland Sneaker Cartel
Maryland Sustainability Engineering
MaryPIRG
oSTEM
Pakistani Student Association
Phi Alpha Epsilon Public Health Honor Society
Phi Upsilon Omicron Family and Consumer Science Honor Society
Public Health Garden
Rak Shalom
Residence Hall Association
Rooftop Community Garden
Sign Language Club

Sketchup
Society of Biological Engineers
St. Mary's Language House Garden Club
Student Government Association
Students for Sensible Drug Policy
Sustainability Committee of Maryland (RHA)
Terrapin Theatre Troupe
The Weekday Players
UMD for Clean Energy
VegTerps

**A Resolution Strongly Encouraging the Administration to Detail their Goals for
the Climate Action Plan**

F 12-10-24 B

1. WHEREAS, the Student Government Association (SGA) represents the student body; and,
2. WHEREAS, the SGA has an established Student Sustainability Committee (SSC) to advocate for students on sustainability issues; and,
3. WHEREAS, the SSC and SGA have taken a proactive role in sustainability both on and off this campus; and,
4. WHEREAS, the University of Maryland has become a model of university sustainability efforts for other colleges across the country; and,
7. WHEREAS, former University President Dan Mote signed the President's Climate Commitment pledging to make the campus carbon neutral by 2050; and,
8. WHEREAS, the campus is expected to meet its 2012 goal of a fifteen percent reduction from 2005 levels of carbon emissions and,
9. WHEREAS, the University has not detailed how they will reach the 2015 goal of twenty-five percent reduction of carbon emissions from 2005 levels and is not projected to reach this goal; and,
10. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the SGA strongly encourages President Loh and the University of Maryland Administration to detail their plans to meet the 2015 goal of twenty-five percent carbon reduction; and,
11. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SGA strongly encourages the University of Maryland Administration to ensure that the University's goal of carbon neutrality by 2050 is met; and,
12. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University Administration make their specific plans to meet the yearly benchmarks in the Climate Action Plan public to the university community and keep the process of plan creation transparent.

Sponsor: Ryan Belcher BSOS Representative

Cosponsor: David Peeler Neighboring Commuter Representative

Committee: Student Sustainability

Vote: In Favor: 24 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 1

Therefore, the bill: **PASSES** FAILS

Speaker: Matthew Popkin

President: Samantha Zwerling

1 **A Resolution Supporting the President Climate Commitment Campaign**
2 **Call for Acclimation**
3

4 **WHEREAS** the Residence Hall Association (RHA) is the governing body for all on-
5 campus students, and

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7 **WHEREAS** the RHA established the Sustainability Committee of Maryland (SCOM) to
8 advance sustainability efforts on campus, and

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10 **WHEREAS** former University of Maryland (UMD) president Dan Mote signed the
11 President’s Climate Commitment in 2007, and

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13 **WHEREAS** UMD released a Climate Action Plan in 2009 detailing benchmarks to
14 reduce UMD’s carbon footprint with the eventual goal of becoming a carbon neutral
15 campus by 2050, and

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17 **WHEREAS** current UMD president Wallace Loh has not released plans to achieve the
18 upcoming benchmark of a 25% reduction in carbon emissions by 2015, and

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20 **WHEREAS** the Student Sustainability Committee (SSC) of the Student Government
21 Association has written a letter (Appendix A) urging President Loh to announce his plans
22 to meet the forthcoming benchmarks, and

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24 **WHEREAS** SSC solicited SCOM and many other student groups and organizations for a
25 forthcoming signing of the letter and shooting of a short video segment asking
26 administrators “What’s the plan?”, and

27
28 **WHEREAS** SCOM unanimously voted on October 15th, 2012 to support the President
29 Climate Commitment Campaign by signing the letter and participating in the
30 accompanying video,

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32 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the RHA only sign the Climate Action Plan
33 Student Group Coalition Letter.
34

35
36 Author by:
37 Sree Sinha
38 Senator-at-Large
39 Chair, SCOM
40 Residence Hall Association

 Approved by:
 Rachel Mahler
 Chief Information Officer
 Residence Hall Association



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Main Administration Building
College Park, Maryland 20742
301.405.5803 TEL 301.314.9560 FAX

November 29, 2012

Ms. Kate Richard
Director of Sustainability
Student Government Association
Chair, Student Sustainability Committee
6903 Preinkert Drive, 5514A
College Park, MD 20740-7255

Dear Ms. Richard:

Thank you for your November 15, 2012 letter in which you, the Student Sustainability Committee of the SGA and the numerous other listed student organizations expressed support for the university's climate change initiatives. I wish to express my appreciation for your ongoing and energetic efforts, the wonderful work that the students have accomplished and recognition that our campus goal of carbon neutrality by 2050 is not a clear path.

Since the adoption of the Climate Action Plan in 2009, the campus has indeed made great strides to reduce its carbon footprint. We have collectively undertaken many energy conservation initiatives, ranging from relamping hallways with energy efficient equipment to a \$20 million energy performance contract with Johnson Controls. The university has also led the State with the development of new, renewable power projects as evidenced by the large solar array at the Severn Building and the recent solar installation at Mount St. Mary's University. These efforts coupled with reduced single occupancy commuting and encouraging more on and near campus housing, have allowed us to make progress toward our initial 15% carbon reduction goal by 2012. Of course, this progress has also required changes to the campus culture and individual behaviors, and I am very proud of the progress that we have made as a community.

I understand that the greenhouse gas reduction goals for 2015 and 2020 will be difficult to meet given we are a growing campus. However, I am confident that the university will continue to make great strides forward. As you know, the progress made thus far relied upon more than 40 strategies spelled out in the Climate Action Plan. Recently, the University Sustainability Council, an advisory council to the President, established a Sustainable Buildings and Energy Sources Workgroup, chaired by Carlo Colella, Associate Vice President in Facilities Management. The purpose of this workgroup is to review the Climate Action Plan and other possible strategies that will allow us to reach our 2015 and 2020 goals. This workgroup has met on two occasions and will continue its deliberations through the academic year. At that time, they will provide recommendations to the University Sustainability Council and to my office.

Ms. Kate Richards
November 29, 2012
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In the meantime, the campus continues to make progress. A second major energy performance contract was just approved by the Board of Regents to improve energy efficiency in athletic facilities; a new, renewable power project was recently approved involving chicken waste as a fuel source; and we continue to encourage sustainable behaviors by the campus community as evidenced by the 100+ offices that are voluntarily participating in the Green Office Program. I assure you that I will continue to focus on the University's commitment to carbon neutrality, and I am excited to see the innovation the campus will bring to reduce global carbon emissions and improve climate change prediction. Upon receiving and approving recommendations from the Sustainable Buildings and Energy Sources Workgroup and the University Sustainability Council, I will make them available to you.

Thank you and all of the other student organizations for your interest and efforts in making our institution a model of a green university.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wallace D. Loh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W" and a stylized "L" at the end.

Wallace D. Loh
President

cc: Robert Specter
Richard S. Lupin
Michele A. Eastman