



Meeting Summary

December 9, 2011

**Council members present:**

Robert M. Specter, Vice President for Administrative Affairs & CFO (Chair)

Mahlon Straszheim, Associate Provost, Academic Affairs

Matthias Ruth, Professor, School of Public Policy

Steve Hutcheson, Professor, Cell Biology & Molecular Genetics

Thomas Zeller, Associate Professor, History

Scott Lupin, Associate Director, Environmental Safety and Director, Office of Sustainability

Joan Kowal, Energy Manager, Facilities Management

Jay Elvove, Manager, OIT

Bryan Quinn, Director of Technical Operations, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Monette Bailey, Senior Writer/Editor, University Relations

Ian Page, Graduate Student, Agriculture and Resource Economics

Matthew Popkin, Undergraduate Student, Government and Politics

**Guests:**

Sharon La Voy, Director of Assessment, IRPA

Julie Kromkowski, Coordinator of Initiatives and Communication, Facilities Management

Nicole Horvath, Graduate Student, Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development

Bill Guididas, Coordinator of Waste Management, Facilities Management

Meeting start time: 1:00 pm

Meeting Highlights

**CAWG Report on Sustainability Assessment**

Sharon La Voy and Julie Kromkowski presented findings from a recent Campus Assessment Work Group (CAWG) survey of students' attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors about sustainability. **See Appendix A.**

**Sustainability Literacy Assessment**

Nicole Horvath presented findings from the University of Maryland Sustainability Assessment, which tested the sustainability knowledge of a random sample of undergraduate and graduate students. See **Appendix B** for the findings and **Appendix C** for assessment items and frequencies of answer selections.

## **Discussion of Council Workgroups**

Most of the meeting time was set aside to discuss the creation of workgroups to take lead in sustainability planning for different operational areas. The Council contemplated creating the following workgroups:

- Sustainable Buildings and Energy Sources
- Sustainable Water Use and Watershed Protection
- Education for Sustainability
- Research for Sustainability (May be addressed by the Council on the Environment)
- Sustainable Transportation
- Sustainable Food Systems (Already created by Dining Services)
- Sustainable Waste Management

The Office of Sustainability provided a *Discussion Draft: Proposed Priorities for Sustainability Council Work Groups – Spring 2012 (Appendix D)*.

The Council's discussion largely focused on how to make the workgroups effective. Nobody wanted to create policy or recommendations that do not translate into action. There was broad agreement that "advisors" and "implementers" must participate on each group and that the Council should take time to select workgroup members who will work together to connect tangible on-the-ground actions to big-picture goals.

Other than "advisors" and "implementers," Matthias Ruth suggested each group have broad community representation with one or two Council member participants. Mahlon Straszheim seconded Matthias's comment and added that he hoped two or three Council members would participate on each workgroup.

Council members also agreed that the workgroups need a directive from the President or Vice Presidents to embark on their work. Rob Specter agreed he could give a directive to the Sustainable Buildings and Energy Sources, Sustainable Water Use and Watershed Protection, and Sustainable Waste Management workgroups since those areas generally fall under Administrative Affairs. He said he would talk with Drs. Clement and Wylie about naming a chair and giving a directive to the Sustainable Transportation and Education for Sustainability workgroups, respectively.

Scott Lupin said the Office of Sustainability will take the rest of December to refine workgroup objectives and develop suggestions for workgroup chairs and general membership. Scott and Rob will take those recommendations to the other vice presidents in January.

## **University Sustainability Fund**

Matthew Popkin gave a brief report on the activities of the Student Advisory Subcommittee, which reviewed all 28 proposals that were submitted to 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:

- Eppley Wind Project - \$14,200
- Trash to Treasure - \$10,000
- Food Recovery Network - \$2,268.80
- Growing St. Mary's Garden - \$1,000.60

Descriptions of each project are included in **Appendix E**.

**ACTION –Council members unanimously voted in favor of approving funding for all four projects brought forth by the Student Advisory Subcommittee.**

As of this action, the Council approved the disbursement of \$27,469.40, which leaves approximately \$187,058.60 in the Fund. The Student Advisory Subcommittee intends to bring its final recommendations on projects to fund to the February Council meeting.

### **Introduction of Clean Energy Proposal**

Matthew Popkin, on behalf of other undergraduate students, presented a document called the *University of Maryland Clean Energy Purchasing Strategy: RECs to PPAs* (**Appendix F**). The Council did not have time to discuss the proposal but Joan Kowal agreed to prepare an overview of the types of RECs available to purchase and the costs of satisfying this proposal for the Council's consideration in February.

### **Sustainability Minor**

Mahlon Straszheim briefed the Council on the status of the Sustainability Minor. The Senate Programs, Curricula, and Courses (PCC) Committee approved the minor on December 2, 2011. Provost Ann Wylie will release a note to the campus about the minor.

### **New Waste Bins**

Bill Guididas presented the new trash (black) and recycling (blue) bins to the Council. These corrugated plastic bins will replace the white cardboard bins located throughout campus facilities. The bins will also feature signage designed by Fran Avendano in the Office of Sustainability. Signage will be posted on the bins and on the walls above bins. Bill expects to receive and install the new bins in January.

Adjourn: 3:10 pm