



## Meeting Summary March 1, 2013

### **Council members present:**

Robert Specter, Vice President for Administration and Finance (Chair)  
Linda Clement, Vice President for Student Affairs  
John Farley, Assistant Vice President for Administrative Affairs  
Ann Tonggarwee, Assistant to President  
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  
Monette Bailey, Senior Writer/Editor, University Relations  
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  
Clark Rushing, Graduate Student, Biology  
Karina French, Undergraduate Student, English and Geography

Meeting start time: 9:00 am

### Meeting Highlights

#### **Presentation of 2012 Sustainability Progress Report**

Mark Stewart and Sally DeLeon of the Office of Sustainability presented a brief PowerPoint highlighting several findings from the 2012 Campus Sustainability Progress Report (see **Appendix A**). The 2012 report was the first time the annual Campus Greenhouse Gas Inventory was combined with the annual Campus Sustainability Metrics Report. The combined Sustainability Progress Report streamlines reporting and makes it easier for stakeholders to find important data.

Council members discussed several metrics with particular emphasis on the university's carbon footprint. Joan Kowal mentioned that the combined heat and power plant (CHP) had some glitches in 2011 so the campus had to compensate for down-time with more purchased electricity, which has higher emissions than CHP electricity. This is one reason purchased electricity increased a bit in 2011. Eric Wachsman commented that we should strive to reduce purchased electricity emissions since they are significantly "dirtier" than CHP emissions. Rob Specter suggested that the current greenhouse gas graph does not adequately show impact of campus growth.

Conversation turned to air travel, which is becoming an increasingly large portion of the university's carbon footprint. Ross Salawitch suggested the university could require the purchase of carbon offsets for all air travel or limit air travel to one trip per person per year. Eric Wachsman said creating such a tight restriction on travel is not realistic and he questioned the legitimacy of carbon offsets. Joan Kowal suggested we consider local offset projects so that the university is paying itself for reducing emissions. Sally DeLeon offered that Yale University has optional offsets available that create funding for projects throughout New Haven. Local offsets for UMD could support carbon capture technology on CHP, expanding the Shuttle UM fleet to reduce commuting emissions, and other projects on or near campus that would eliminate carbon emissions from local sources.

Scott Lupin pointed out that the university has a big challenge ahead to achieve a 50% reduction in emissions by 2020 and the Office of Sustainability and Council will need to consider some bold strategies to get there. At the next Council meeting, the Sustainable Buildings and Energy Sources Work Group will present some aggressive ideas for reducing emissions through power and operations.

### **University Sustainability Fund – Student Subcommittee Recommendations**

Karina French presented the Student Advisory Subcommittee's second round of recommendations for projects to be funded through the University Sustainability Fund. The subcommittee is still deliberating on three proposals but it recommended the following 11 projects receive immediate funding. These projects are described in **Appendix B**.

- **Hybrid and Plug-In Electric Education Laboratory - \$45,000.** Vote: All in favor.
- **Green Projects at CSPAC - \$20,000.** Discussion: Project leaders should seek opportunities to recycle or donate the old lights and other equipment being removed. Vote: All in favor.
- **Stamp Green Roofs: Living Labs - \$20,000.** Discussion: Project leaders should compost old sedums and other organic waste from project. Vote: All in favor.
- **University of Maryland Apiary - \$9,600.** Vote: All in favor.
- **Increased Campus Bicycle Parking - \$9,300.** Discussion: Project leaders must coordinate with FM-Planning to ensure project is aligned with the Facilities Master Plan. Vote: All in favor.
- **Kim Engineering Bicycle Parking - \$8,400.** Discussion: Project leaders must coordinate with FM-Planning to ensure project is aligned with the Facilities Master Plan. Vote: All in favor.
- **Visitor Center Sustainability Upgrades and Outreach - \$7,405.** Vote: All in favor.
- **Sustainable Toxic Gas Use - \$3,033.** Vote: All in favor.
- **Team PRESSURE - \$2,000.** Vote: All in favor.
- **Mobile Applications for Sustainability - \$1,000.** Vote: All in favor.

- **Innovation Portal - \$17,000.** The Council originally reviewed this proposal in December but tabled it until this meeting to collect additional information from the project leaders. Discussion: Project leaders should work in close coordination and engagement with the Office of Information Technology. Jay Elvove can help project leaders find the right person within OIT to work with. Vote: 14 Yay, 1 Abstain.

### **New Ideas/Issues from Committee Members**

Rob Specter reserved some time at the end of the meeting to hear new ideas or concerns from Council members. Ross Salawitch asked if the Council will have the opportunity to provide input on the “East Campus” development plans. Rob said there is a new vision for College Park redevelopment that has a broader scope than just the parcel of land called East Campus. He offered to present the new vision, including the College Park City/University Partnership plan, at the next Council meeting.

Still on the topic of East Campus, Karina French suggested that the proposed hotel and conference center be designed and built as a “signature project” for the future of College Park – a model of sustainable design. Ross Salawitch suggested the university pay for a low-earth geothermal system, which commercial tenants on the property would pay for over time.

Joan Kowal mentioned the need to sync capital budgets and operating budgets. She also thinks the Council should engage the greater community more and bring them into the discussion about sustainability of the campus and city.

Scott Lupin suggested the Council think more about climate change as a “business risk” that requires the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, but equally important, adaptation strategies focused on energy and water issues. He said major corporations and federal installations are increasingly viewing climate change from this perspective to reduce their long-term business and operational risks. Rob said these are important topics to the university and the Office of Sustainability should prepare some material on these issues for the Council.

Adjourn: 11:00 am