



Meeting Summary
March 7, 2014

Council members present:

Carlo Colella, Vice President for Administration and Finance (Chair)
Linda Clement, Vice President for Student Affairs
John Farley, Assistant Vice President for Administration and Finance
Ann Tonggarwee, Assistant to President
Scott Lupin, Associate Director, Environmental Safety, and Director, Office of Sustainability
Susan Corry, Energy Conservation Manager, Facilities Management
Bryan Quinn, Director of Technical Operation, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
David Cooper, Assistant Director of IT Operations, Division of IT
Eric Wachsmann, Professor, Materials Science and Engineering, and Director, Energy Research Center
Carol Rogers, Professor, Journalism
David Lovell, Associate Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Ori Gutin, Director of Sustainability, Student Government Association
Scott Tjaden, Graduate Student, Environmental Science and Technology

Guests: Russell Fur, Director, Department of Environmental Safety

Meeting start time: 10:00am

Meeting Highlights

New Council Members

The Council welcomed two new members: Ori Gutin, Director of Sustainability, Student Government Association and David Cooper, Assistant Director of IT Operations, Division of IT.

Sustainability Fund Proposals

Ori Gutin, chair of the Council's Student Advisory Subcommittee, presented seven projects that the subcommittee recommends receive grants from the University Sustainability Fund:

- Zero Waste to Landfill Athletic Facilities - \$40,000
- Action Learning Project – Institute for Sustainable Maryland - \$25,000
- Maryland Sustainability Engineering Paint Branch Bioretention - \$8,000
- MESA Green Shelters Mobile Demonstration - \$5,500
- Window Treatment - Fraternity Row Pilot - \$4,000
- Building a Campus-Oriented Stationless Bikeshare System - \$4,000
- Nest Box Program - \$1,741

Motion for funding: all seven projects were approved by the Council for funding.

Sustainable Water Use and Watershed Report

Russell Furr, Chair of the Sustainable Water Use and Watershed Workgroup and Director of the Department of Environmental Safety, continued discussion about the recommendations from the **Sustainable Water Use and Watershed Report**.

- Recommendation #1: Reorganizing roles. Assign responsibility between FM and DES → clear structure of who to go to so projects can move forward. Approved.
- Recommendation #2: Reduce purchased potable water 20% by 2020. Approved with amendment: adjust wording so that it is not a formal policy.
- Recommendation #3: Purple pipe and water reclamation. Approved.
- Recommendation #4: Develop stormwater master plan. Approved.
- Recommendation #5: Leadership beyond compliance and permit requirements. Approved

Remainder of recommendations tabled until next meeting.

AASHE STARS Gold Rating

The university recently achieved a Gold Rating in the AASHE Stars system. Less than 20% of participating schools receive a Gold rating. The report can be found [here](#).

President's Energy Initiative

Ori Gutin informed the Council about a letter he received on January 2nd from President Loh. The letter was a response to recommendations made by the Council and SGA in fall 2013. In the letter, Dr. Loh gave his approval for four climate action initiatives:

- President's Carbon Neutral New Development Initiative – sets forth a goal to mitigate new greenhouse gas emissions originating from additional electricity demand associated with new construction and major renovations.
- President's Energy Conservation Initiative – sets forth a goal of reducing campus energy use by 20% by 2020.
- The campus will only purchase renewable power from the grid by 2020 – the SGA requested that the university take this action and Dr. Loh agreed it should be adopted as a campus goal.
- Purchasing third-party verified carbon offsets to reduce campus GHG emissions to the levels needed to meet Climate Action Plan 2015 and 2020 goals – this recommendation followed an analysis of emission reduction strategies that showed the university might have to purchase carbon offsets to meet upcoming Climate Action Plan goals.

See the Appendix for President Loh's letter.

Next meeting will take place Friday, April 4, 2014 at 10:00am.

Adjourn: 12:00pm



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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January 2, 2014

Mr. Ori Gutin
SGA Director of Sustainability
Student Government Association
0209J Stamp Student Union
Campus - 4631

Dear Mr. Gutin:

Thank you for your letter of November 21, 2013, regarding the University's recent accomplishment of meeting the Climate Action Plan's (CAP) 2012 goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 15% against the 2005 baseline. I am very pleased with the collective effort the campus made and recognize we are now moving into the most aggressive time period within the CAP.

I would like to thank you for your involvement and that of the Student Government Association in our campus sustainability programs. I have read the SGA *"Resolution Urging the Administration to Eliminate Carbon Emissions from Purchased Electricity by 2020."* The Resolution requests that the campus commit to eliminating purchases of electricity from non-renewable sources by 2020 and provide a plan to achieve the CAP 2020 goal of reducing total campus greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2020. In your letter, you noted my correspondence with Ms. Samantha Zwerling dated October 22, 2013, which described the Administrative Council's ongoing review of 2 proposed energy policies – Policy on Implementing Energy Conservation in Existing Buildings and Policy on Carbon Neutral New Development.

I have reviewed the two proposed policies and the requests within the Resolution in light of the CAP 2015 and 2020 greenhouse gas emission goals. With advice and analysis provided by the administration, University Sustainability Council and SGA, I expect the campus can achieve the CAP 2015 and 2020 goals by taking the following actions:

- The proposed Policy on Carbon Neutral New Development sets forth a goal to mitigate new greenhouse gas emissions originating from additional electricity demand associated with new construction and major renovations. I support this goal. However, I do not believe this needs to be made a campus policy. Instead, I will announce the "President's Carbon Neutral New Development Initiative" and will move to make this effective in early 2014. The Initiative will set the campus on the path of meeting the above-stated goal as detailed in the proposed policy.
- The proposed Policy on Implementing Energy Conservation in Existing Buildings sets forth a goal of reducing campus energy use by 20% by 2020. I support this goal which will result in significant utility cost savings over the next 20 years while reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. However, I do not believe this needs to be made a campus policy. Instead, I will announce the "President's Energy Conservation Initiative" in early 2014. The Initiative will set the campus on the path of meeting the above-stated goal as detailed in the proposed policy. I believe energy conservation must be an important focus and is consistent with the Governor's Empower program.

Mr. Ori Gutin
January 2, 2014
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- The SGA's recommendation that the campus only purchase renewable power from the grid by 2020 should be adopted as a campus goal. This strategy is a reasonable approach that supports our CAP 2015 and 2020 goals. It is expected that the campus will require much less purchased power in 2020 due to energy conservation and the curtailment of new emissions resulting from campus growth.
- The campus will continue to seek further greenhouse gas emission reductions from the other major sources (the campus combined heat and power plant, air travel, and commuting) to minimize or negate the need to purchase offsets. However, should it be necessary, I support the purchase of third-party verified carbon offsets to reduce campus GHG emissions to the levels needed to meet the CAP 2015 and 2020 goals.

I believe the University has made great strides in its sustainability efforts which have involved a wide range of strategies and the actions of many concerned people. I believe our success will continue to require active management, flexibility and continuous analysis of our alternatives. The Student Government Association is critical in that effort and I appreciate your ongoing collaboration.

Sincerely,



Wallace D. Loh
President

Cc: Michelle Eastman, Assistant President and Chief of Staff
Mary Ann Rankin, Senior Vice President and Provost
Carlo Colella, Vice President for Administration and Finance
Scott Lupin, Director, Office of Sustainability
Samantha Zwerling, President, Student Government Association
Susan Corry, Manager, Energy Projects and Conservation