



Meeting Summary

November 4, 2011

Council members present:

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

Linda Clement, Student Affairs

Mahlon Straszheim, Associate Provost, Academic Affairs

Steve Hutcheson, Professor of Cell Biology & Molecular Genetics

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:

Kimberlee Robertella, Program Manager, Center for Social Value Creation

Meeting start time: 10:00 am

Meeting Highlights

Sustainability Metrics Report, Greenhouse Gas Inventory, STARS and establishing Council Priorities

Sally DeLeon, Measurement Coordinator in the Office of Sustainability, presented findings from the *2010 Sustainability Metrics Report*. This was followed by a comparison between the Metrics Report and the Greenhouse Gas inventory. Finally, our performance using the STARS rating system was presented and compared to data included in the Metrics Report and the Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Based on these three reports, the OS recommended possible Council priorities for the years 2011-2014.

Mark Stewart, Manager in the Office of Sustainability, presented a strategy on how to address the recommended Council priorities. The centerpiece of the strategy is the creation of workgroups that would focus on the following issues:

- Sustainable Buildings and Energy Sources
- Sustainable Water Use and Watershed Protection
- Education for Sustainability
- Research for Sustainability
- Sustainable Transportation
- Sustainable Food Systems
- Sustainable Waste Management
- Sustainable College Park

The full presentation is included in **Appendix A**.

Discussion

- **Goal Setting**
 - Rob Specter thanked the Office of Sustainability for its review of the metric systems and turned the conversation to the Council. He encouraged the Council to be broad minded in its discussion. He said STARS is important and helpful but we should stay focused on the unique qualities of the University. We should consider how our status as a research university gives us the opportunity to tap into the knowledge and research of the faculty.
 - Scott Lupin stated that we have been picking at low hanging fruit but we need to move on to higher, harder to reach issues. There are many big issues to address and lot of people need to be involved. Scott supports development of the workgroups because they pull in other experts and views. They also allow the University to address big issues outside of the campus, such as how to support the State's k-12 teachers in meeting the new Environmental Literacy Standard.
- **Transportation**
 - Matthew Popkin liked the proposed workgroups and recommended initiating the Sustainable Transportation workgroup this winter along with Sustainable Buildings and Energy Sources, Sustainable Water Use and Watershed Protection, Education for Sustainability, and Research for Sustainability. He said there are many timely transportation issues to address, especially the construction of new garages.
 - Linda Clement agreed that the transportation workgroup should begin sooner than later since it's very timely and DOTS would welcome the help. The workgroup may be able to identify a new business model for transportation services that supports sustainability goals.
 - Bryan Quinn said the University does not do enough to promote alternative transportation.
- **Education and Research**
 - Mahlon Straszheim said we can make major progress on education and research. He said we could easily count the courses and research projects related to sustainability (and STARS) and do a better job of communicating about them. The new Gen Ed i-series courses present a huge opportunity for faculty to create courses the address environmental and sustainability issues. We need to engage the faculty in the process.
 - Scott Lupin said the University might create something like a Center for Environmental Literacy to support the State's current and future k-12 teachers in their effort to integrate environmental education across the curriculum, which is a new requirement recently passed by the State Board of Education.
 - Rob Specter said he likes the idea and it could be created as a certificate program.
- **Carbon Neutrality**
 - Joan Kowal said the University System of Maryland (USM) is wrestling with the challenge of growing the physical campus while pursuing carbon neutrality. They are talking about a carbon-neutral policy but don't want to dictate to schools. They are interested in seeing capital project partnered with carbon neutral projects and would be supportive of programs costing a little more. UMD could show leadership and drive the conversation about policy.

- **Economics**
 - Steve Hutcheson said we need money to develop good ideas in the real world, including on campus. Economics is a driver of getting business investment. Create economic incentives and use these to drive progress. Ensure workgroups focus on economics so that actions can get implemented.
 - Matthew Popkin agreed that the economic case is important, but that we need to look at multiple aspects and values besides economics. Other drivers include education and culture change.
 - Steve said he likes STARS because of the breakdown of categories and emphasis on education but UMD needs to show the economic impact of our decisions. Success in the state will not be shown by environmental success; it will be shown by economics. You can sell economic savings or benefits.
 - Rob Specter stated that each workgroup should take a policy approach, economic approach, and education approach. These are not mutually exclusive and every program needs to consider all three.
- **College Park**
 - Rob Specter said it is important to think about our connection to the whole College Park community and that perhaps instead of having a Sustainable College Park Workgroup; each of the other workgroups should integrate a mission of finding connections with College Park through their work. We may even expand our scope of work to include other local communities including Greenbelt, University Park, etc.
- **New Research Space**
 - Bryan Quinn suggested that the University create rooftop research space to support student and faculty research projects (green roofs, solar technology, etc.). He has submitted a proposal to create such a space on the roof of AV Williams.

ACTION – Rob Specter asked all Council members to email their ranked preferences for workgroup assignments. The Office of Sustainability will send out the entire presentation so that people know what is encapsulated within each work group.

University House – Joan Kowal

- Want this centrally focused and privately funded house/event center to be a showcase of sustainable measures that we are pursuing on campus:
 - Use of geothermal heat pumps is being pursued. The facility is not on UM’s steam distribution system so this is a good place to use this technology. \$150,000
 - Solar hot water heating. Good for using with special event features of the building. \$26,000
 - Considering solar PV array. 5 – 10 kW range. \$130,000

The project is going to the Finance Committee within the next few weeks and believes UM should make some technology investments at this site to demonstrate the University’s commitment to sustainability and not have the decision to proceed based solely on economics. Joan requested endorsement from the Council that the project demonstrates new sustainable technologies on campus. The Council passed a motion that these technologies be part of the facility.

Updates:

Matthew Popkin bottled water proposal:

- Matthew presented a proposal regarding bottled water on campus.
- This is not a water issue but rather a behavior change issue.
- Proposes to prohibit university funds in academic and administrative offices for the purchase of bottled water.
- Date of implementation can be discussed and revised.
- Addressed at our next meeting.

Ian Page on grad student sustainability committee:

- Graduate student body established a temporary grad student sustainability committee for one year. Hopefully this can become a permanent committee.

Sustainability Fund:

- 28 proposals were received

Adjourned at 12:12 pm