

Council Members Present (via Zoom):

Bob Reuning — Interim Vice President & Chief Administrative Officer (Chair)

Scott Lupin — Assoc Dir., Environmental Safety, Sustainability & Risk; Director, Office of Sustainability

Mary Dorman — Acting Executive Director, Environmental Safety, Sustainability & Risk

Bryan Quinn — Director of Technical Operation, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering

Colleen Wright-Riva — Assistant Vice President, Division of Student Affairs

Yueming Lucy Qiu — Professor, School of Public Policy, and Associate Dean, Research and Faculty Affairs

Eric Wachsman — Professor, Materials Science and Engineering, and Director, Maryland Energy Innovation Institute

Susan Corry — Director, Engineering and Energy, Facilities Management

Guests Present:

Bradley Bower — Coordinator of Strategic Initiatives, Office of the Provost

Joanna Goger — Principal Lecturer, Environmental Science & Policy

Caroline Boules — Lecturer, Department of Anthropology

Nima Farshchi — Executive Director, Office of Experiential Learning; Director, Center for Social Value Creation

Elisabeth Smela — Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering

Meeting start time: 12:00 pm

Meeting Highlights

Introduction

The Council was presented with information about Ecoliteracy programming at the university (*Appendix A*) and was briefed by several faculty members about ongoing and future initiatives that aim to integrate sustainability into various disciplines at the university.

ENSP Environmental Justice Specialization — J. Goger and C. Boules

Joanna Goger and Caroline Boules presented on the new Environmental Justice specialization within the Environmental Science and Policy (ENSP) program. This specialization emerged from strong student interest, particularly from a former student who proposed an initial curriculum.

The program, which launched in Fall 2024, is supported by a new partnership with the School of Public Health. The specialization explores environmental justice through three categories: theory (e.g., systemic causes of inequity), practice (policy and non-policy solutions), and action (methods like advocacy and policy analysis). The curriculum includes a foundational three-credit course, a one-credit seminar featuring guest speakers, and elective courses drawn from departments across campus. A Sustainability Fund Grant was recently granted to modernize the Sustainability Studies Minor curriculum to align with current trends in sustainability education, enhance student skills for the job market, and better incorporate principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice.

Sustainability at Smith - Curricular Updates — *N. Farshchi*

Nima Farshchi from the Robert H. Smith School of Business shared updates on sustainability efforts within the school's curriculum. At the undergraduate level, Smith has incorporated sustainability into experiential learning, with 27.5% of classes including an experiential learning component, with about 60% of those classes addressing sustainability. At the graduate level, finance and quantitative finance both have climate finance tracks. The master's in supply chain has a sustainability track which half the students have opted into. Smith's MBA also has a sustainability track, which a few dozen students are in. Sustainability electives are also prevalent in the M.S. programs with sustainability analytics and greenwashing topics covered. Smith has also developed a proposal for four sustainability programs (MS and certificates, both in-person and online), though this initiative is currently paused due to budgetary and institutional factors. Outside the classroom, Smith students are engaged in projects through the Center for Social Value Creation and the Office of Experiential Learning, including efforts to eliminate single-use plastic water bottles and expand participation in the Green Office Program.

Sustainability Literacy Assessment — *B. Bower*

Bradley Bower from the Office of the Provost provided an update on the university's development of a new sustainability literacy assessment, the first since 2013. A working group of faculty and staff began meeting in October and has since produced a survey of questions that covers core sustainability knowledge areas, regional issues, and sustainability culture. The team is exploring how best to deploy the survey to maximize student engagement and minimize bias, with the goal to launch it during Campus Sustainability Month in October. The survey results will help inform future initiatives.

Sustainability Across the Curriculum Workshop — *D. Frye*

Dyani Frye from the Office of Sustainability introduced an upcoming Sustainability Across the Curriculum Workshop, which will take place on June 2. This updated version of the former Chesapeake Teaching Fellows Program is a one-day event that will feature hands-on collaboration, networking, and faculty development focused on integrating sustainability into course learning outcomes. A small honorarium will be offered to encourage participation.

Sustainability Teaching Certification — *E. Smela*

Elisabeth Smela from the A. James Clark School of Engineering concluded the eco-literacy presentations by sharing progress on a new online micro-credential certificate series for instructors. The series includes four stackable certificates in a curriculum ladder starting with Sustainability Teaching Basics and culminating with Sustainability Teaching: Expert. This series aims to provide instructors with the knowledge and tools to incorporate sustainability into any course. Participants are encouraged to enroll with a partner to foster collaboration, and the development team is currently seeking faculty input, assignment examples, and AI support to create a searchable teaching resource database.

Closing Remarks — *S. Lupin and S. DeLeon*

Scott Lupin reported that since quorum was not reached, all voting items, including the approval of final Sustainability Fund projects, would be deferred to the May Council meeting. Sally DeLeon announced that the University of Maryland is now officially carbon neutral—a milestone achievement for the campus. Earth Month events were highlighted and Council members were encouraged to review the Earth Month calendar and participate in events throughout the month.

Adjourn 1:00 PM

Appendices:

Appendix A: Ecoliteracy Snapshot