University Sustainability Council

Draft Meeting Summary

September 29, 2009

Attendees
All members of the Council were in attendance.

President’s Charge to the Council
Dr. Mote welcomed members to the inaugural meeting, thanking them for agreeing to serve on the Council. He noted that the campus is dedicated to being a leader in campus sustainability and the Council’s charge is to become a knowledgeable and trusted source of advice to the campus. He reflected that by 2050 (when the Climate Action Plan time horizon is intended to be complete), the campus will have educated more than 300,000 additional students. So while the greening of the physical campus infrastructure is important, the “big play” is the opportunity to educate Maryland students about sustainability and influence their thinking and behavior over the long-term. He closed by recognizing that the Council has a heavy load placed upon it but it needs to become a trusted and credible sustainability advisor if the University is going to realize its goal of becoming a national model for a green university.

Chair’s Remarks
Council Chair Dr. Ann Wylie explained that the Council is intended to lend expertise in project analysis, particularly with respect to the campus’ goal of carbon neutrality. She underscored the importance of a data driven approach so that the campus can analyze the effectiveness of projects and prioritize support based on their sustainability impact. She noted that each Vice President is either serving or represented so the council has the benefit of a broad campus purview. The Office of Sustainability is staffing the Council and will provide administrative and technical support.

- Student Subcommittee – Dr. Wylie explained that the recently enacted undergraduate student fee is narrowly defined to support clean, renewable energy. To determine how best to spend the funds, she has formed a Student Subcommittee, to be chaired by student member Joanna Calabrese. Council members Joan Kowal and Dr. Matthias Ruth will serve on the subcommittee along with two nominated students. These students have been invited but have yet to confirm their participation.
- Funding – Dr. Wylie noted that while there are not designated funds for sustainability, the Council can refer projects to the Finance Committee and the Facilities Council for support. The University has made a commitment to sustainability and the Council should think long-term and propose the projects and approaches that it feels are appropriate, regardless of current budget constraints.

Member Presentations and Discussion
- GHG Inventory and Climate Action Plan – Dr. Matthias Ruth provided a brief overview of the campus greenhouse gas inventory covering Fiscal Years 2002-2008 and explained the scope and breadth of the campus Climate Action Plan.
- Energywise UM – Joanna Calabrese gave a brief description of the Energywise UM energy conservation pilot that is taking place this semester in the Chesapeake Building and Van Munching and Martin Halls.
- USM Transportation Study – Dr. Matthias Ruth explained that the Center for Integrative Environmental Research is conducting a transportation study for the University System of Maryland
that is working to understand commuter behavior and provide recommendations for transit options and route optimization that would lower the campus’ carbon footprint from commuting. Results from the study will inform transportation planning and programming at a number of USM institutions.

• **Open Discussion** – Members shared a number of ideas about where the Council might focus and sources of information that would be helpful to members in understanding issues and providing sustainability-related advice to Dr. Mote and the campus.

**Next Steps**

Dr. Wylie summarized the Council’s discussions and asked for volunteers to work on the various action items before the next meeting. The assignments are noted below. She polled members and determined that Thursdays from Noon to 1:30 would work for the next Council meeting.

1. **Temperature Settings in Buildings** – Provide information about the various types of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems in buildings and consider categorizing buildings by type so that the implications of temperature settings and hours of operation can be better understood – Joan Kowal

2. **Window Replacement** – Provide information about average payback – Joan Kowal

3. **Campus Lighting** – Status of hallway lighting retrofit and outside lighting best practices (e.g., LED, solar, sensors) including average paybacks – Joan Kowal

4. **Solar Hot Water** – Provide information about average payback – Joan Kowal

5. **Geothermal Study** – Provide update on status of study – Joan Kowal

6. **University of Maryland Energy Research Center (UMERC)** – Connect with UMERC about presenting their research to the Council, including cutting-edge technologies that have medium-to near-term campus applications – Dr. Matthias Ruth


8. **Energy Website** – Develop campus sustainability website repository for energy information including the energy-related Frequently Asked Questions from the UM Budget Central website – Office of Sustainability to work with Dr. Sally Koblinsky

9. **Present Sample Energywi$e UM Building Energy Report** – Office of Sustainability

10. **In-House Energy Performance Contract (EPC)** – Consider selecting one of the older campus buildings for an in-house EPC and explore whether the State would allow debt repayment from energy savings. Process could provide a learning opportunity for faculty, staff, and students and galvanize alumni and donor support – Dr. Ann Wylie

11. **After Hours Building Access** – Consider faculty perspectives related to reducing after hours energy consumption in buildings. Consider what can be done – Dr. Bruce James

12. **Transportation** – Provide briefing about current UM alternative transportation programs and status of each – Dr. Linda Clement