

November 10, 2008

TO: Daniel Sullivan, President
Michael Temkin, Chair, Faculty Council

FROM: Carrie Johns, Chair, Conservation Council
Thomas Coakley, Vice President for Administrative Operations

RE: Presidents Climate Commitment – Plan for Climate Neutrality

We write seeking your advice and ultimate approval for a planning process regarding the University's Plan for Climate Neutrality due 9/15/2009.

Shortly after signing the Presidents Climate Commitment, President Sullivan assigned the planning process to the Conservation Council after discussions with Tom Coakley. As we have learned more about the document's complexity, breadth of coverage, and its interrelationship with other campus planning processes, particularly the Campus Facilities Master Plan, it is clear that this undertaking requires broader input and more direct attention than can be provided solely from the Conservation Council. We offer the following as our preferred approach to this planning process.

We propose creating an ad hoc planning committee that would include Conservation Council members, at their option, and a group of faculty, staff, and students specifically chosen to provide both expertise and campus representation to the process. The committee would operate as a Conservation Council sub-committee with a reporting representation to Senior Staff and the President. We would expect the plan to come up through the Conservation Council to other relevant campus committees and the plan would be fully vetted on campus. Prior to submission in September of 2009, we would hope that the plan would be approved by relevant committees, the President, and the Board of Trustees. It is most important that this document be accepted and understood with respect to its impact and co-existence within the overall plan and direction of the University.

The Conservation Council includes the following individuals: Carrie Johns, Chair, and Associate Professor/Department Chair of Environmental Studies; Ben Dixon, Coordinator of Regional Development and Sustainability; Louise Gava, Coordinator of Campus Sustainability; Eric Williams-Bergen, Science Librarian; Rick Scott, Assistant Director of HVAC and Utilities; Karl McKnight, Associate Professor of Biology; Katie Craig, Associate Director of the Outdoor Program; Erin Griffin '09. These individuals would be offered the opportunity to serve both on Conservation Council and on the sub-committee. Depending on those choosing to serve on both committees, we would like to ask the following persons to join the committee:

- Jon Rosales - Environmental Studies, Assistant Professor. (We would ask Jon to chair the group until his sabbatical begins in the second semester.)
- Karl Schoenberg - Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs. (Karl would provide an important campus-wide perspective and a connection to the Dean's office.)
- Dan Seaman - Director of Facilities and Construction Planning
- Tom Coakley - Vice President for Administrative Operations
- Hans Czap - Economics, Visiting Assistant Professor
- Brad Baldwin - Biology, Associate Professor, Department Co-Chair
- Tom Greene - Psychology, Department Chair

Depending on the student representation that we receive from the Conservation Council, we may need to add students to this working group.

We hope that we can get your approval to move forward relatively quickly in order to take advantage of Jon Rosales' presence on campus only through the end of this semester. We look forward to hearing from you.

cc: Joan Larsen - Chair of Buildings, Grounds & Campus Support Committee
Alison Del Rossi - Associate Professor of Economics and ISAC Co-Chair
Valerie Lehr – Vice President of the University and Dean of Academic Affairs