

ESC Meeting Notes

May 3, 2011

Members in attendance: Mary Alice Coffroth, Graduate School; Tom Furlani, Information Technology; James Nadbrzuch, Student Affairs; Joseph Raab, University Facilities; Jeffery Reed, Employee Relations; Dan Vivian, Procurement Services; Carol Kobrin, Health Sciences; Kenneth Tramosch, Research; Robert Sibley, chair.

Absent: Michael Alcazaren, Undergraduate Student Association; Beth Del Genio, Office of the Provost; Jean Wactawski-Wende, Strategic Strengths.

Excused: Massimo Betello, Graduate Student Association; Michael Dupre, University Facilities; Alan Rabideau, Undergraduate Education.

Staff and others: Erin Moscati, UB Green; James Simon, UB Green; Al Gilewicz, Utility Operations.

Review of Meeting Notes. The notes from March 1, 2011 meeting were circulated. The notes were approved for posting on the ESC website.

Student Announcements. Jordan Dalton, a media studies graduate student will be replacing Massimo Betello as the GSA representative to the ESC. SA Environmental will be announcing leadership and staff changes in mid to late May.

Spring Forum Follow up. Sibley discussed the forum. Moscati acknowledged that attendance was light, suggesting that we hold a forum in the fall instead of the spring. Or, in early spring—January or February. Tramosch—do you think it was the timing? Moscati—it was a combination of finding a time and space that worked given all the conditions we had. It's also a busy time for professors and students.

- Spring events give people a chance to get excited, but they do not allow a way to plug in. Sibley—how many ESC members were able to attend—3. Furlani—fall is a better time. Better weather, opportunity for follow up. Kandler—more of an opportunity for input. Raab—next fall is a reporting year for ACUPCC.
- Sibley—the committees success of getting a plan before ACUPCC was a function of our charge and our timeframe. If we use our two year reporting cycle as a target, then things fall into place if we start in the fall. Let's start now and nail a date down.
- Moscati—thanks to everyone that attended and presented and to Bob's leadership for facilitating.

Planning Board update. Sibley—we have a new President and Provost. Neither has indicated how we should report.

Committee Reports. Research, Teaching, and Public Service. Coffroth—there was a lot of discussion at the forum about general education/literacy and the environment. Someone will be coming to the next

subcommittee meeting to discuss. Would like to create an environmental programs web portal. Discussions are ongoing with CAS DEAN Bruce Pitman. CAS has designed a website that isn't live yet. It has portals into all the environmental programs on campus. Links to programs and activities. This will be discussed at the next meeting. Shibley—there's a UB Green/GSOB/ESC/Master Plan web galaxy. We still don't have a communications chair. Why are there multiple and not just one? What's the time frame? Coffroth—hopefully will happen. The page is designed. Haven't spoken with Bruce recently, but will catch up with him soon. May use Discovery Seminar money to hire a student to manage the page. Fall by the latest?

- Shibley—this is appealing in the context of measuring and reporting on what we are doing in a single area. Coffroth—let's create a one stop shop for starting to learn about environmental programs at UB.

Information, Technology, and Human Resources. Furlani—making good progress in all areas discussed for long term planning. This summer-planning for renovation of the data center. Hired HP to be a consultant in concert with Facilities. We can then apply for NYSERDA funding to support the renovation itself. CCR data center will be metered by the end of the summer. Will be able to measure efficiencies and minimize energy consumption.

- Shibley—each of the committees is working towards creating a business case for the planning board. In compliance with the mandate from the planning board for a 1, 3, and 5 year plan. 1 year plan is in good shape and largely implemented. Looking for each committee to take their best stab at that. Then, package communications carefully to President and Vice Provosts on the planning board. At the time, the HR/IT issue made sense to be linked. Remote working, etc.
- Raab—will get committee up to speed. Maybe we separate the committees?

Materials. Tricia Kandler for Dan Vivian—reaching out to IT committee, regarding office equipment and office management. The committee will also be meeting with Staples sometime in June regarding the PVC issues that are being brought up. We've recently found a supplier of sugar cane paper and are currently experimenting with how it works here. Moscati—the committee has an opportunity to look at novel ideas. We were approached by the vendor, so let's give it a try. Tramposch—is there a shortage of recycled paper? Moscati—no. Tramposch--do we want to get in the business of shaking things up if they are already working? Doesn't hurt to entertain vendors that are bringing new products. We have come a long way in the last few years.

- Coffroth—what's the energy cost of creating this paper? Moscati—UB Green will look at longer term issues. Gilewicz—sugar cane industry uses waste as a "green" fuel. Will they offset the burning of the material with a carbon source? Moscati—UB Green will look into issues like that.
- Raab—PVC—met with a group. Some of the low hanging fruit might be consumables like binders, etc. This would be an easier switch to make. It's not always easy to find out what products contain PVC. Could Staples identify these products? We are looking into it. Kandler—Staples can eliminate items from the website or move items to the top of the list.

Transportation. We are filling out our matrix. Currently working on park & ride/van pool projects. Thought that Sean Sullivan would be coming in to a future meeting to discuss resource allocation/HR/labor management issues. Shibley—have had a conversation with Sean and he is interested in participating. We'll have a different approach to metrics as related to the Provost's office. We need some "coaching" as to get us in the right place with the Planning Board. Nadbrzuch—working on a new bus contract.

- Shibley—there was an announcement on NFTA passes. What does this mean? Reed—unions signed the offer that was on the table back in January. UUP, CSEA, GSEU are all on board. Raab—it's not a benefit. Shibley—mechanically—how do we get involved. Nadbrzuch—the form is on the P&T website. Reed—Many people have applied—currently sitting in a queue. Shibley—complete a form and fax it in. Fixed volume of passes? Reed—300 Faculty/Staff. Larger number for students. Shibley—if demand exceeds available passes, is that a good thing? Nadbrzuch—it could be a good thing. Shibley—how do we position ourselves to further advance the opportunity? Nadbrzuch—part of our working group. The question is, who will pay for it? Shibley—is it tied to "I promise not to bring a car"? Nadbrzuch—part of the discussions.

Energy. Raab—recently met with facilities, FP&D, Campus Living on PVC. Kristina Blank gave her presentation. Had a discussion of options to reduce the use of PVC on campus. Discussed the Healthy Building Network—possibly doing pilot programs using materials in this list. We've already chosen alternatives—PVC roofing. Mostly use alternative materials. Possibly put this practice into a statement. Approach SUCF and DASNY to link up practices.

- We just finalized Hara. Jim Simon is setting up training. Jim will be the "master" of the program. Incorporate data to predict carbon footprint. Shibley—one of the reasons that Sean Sullivan was brought into the mix. Wasn't a heavy lift. Understood the cost tradeoffs and the way we were paying for it. Self financing structure. Energy savings mean reinvestment into mission of the University. Principle is imbedded in this. Raab—will do an annual report on the results from the use of the program. Shibley—one could imagine that x action creates y savings and y is then split amongst the university.
- Our REC purchasing is changing. We'll be purchasing wind, which is cleaner. Could increase the current percentage. Energy log group will reconcile all the different logs we keep.
- Gilewicz—Solar project. Weather is an issue. Meeting in the next few meetings. No substantial progress until mid June. Complete by October 2011. Over 750 KW. Site constraints led to a decrease in capacity. Will be using recycled concrete and repurposed materials throughout the array. Shibley—synergy with compost and site grading.

Committee Structure Update. Shibley-still searching for communications chair.

AASHE STARS. Moscati—Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System. Designed by AASHE. Were exploring the reporting system to measure our sustainability performance. UB Green is asked on a regular basis to complete surveys from the Sierra Club, Sustainable Endowments Institute, and Princeton Review. These take up significant resources. We have also found that the methodology is flawed and

that we are being ranked instead of rated. Do we complete all assessments that come our way? There is a cost associated with it—\$900 to sign up and it is somewhat structured like the LEED building rating system. Complete credits in sections like Education and Research, Energy, Transportation, Waste, Water, etc. We would fill out the credits that we think are achievable and we would receive points for those credits. The rating is given to us based on the points we receive. It is then made public. We can see where we need to improve. Once we submit the data, our rating is good for 3 years. After the 3 years, we would need to reapply to STARS again. The expiration is a good thing. We can't rest on our laurels. We can apply again and possibly improve.

- UB Green would need support from the various committees in requests for data. Furlani—a lot of schools on the website, but no data. Moscati—pilot phase is still in place. Raab—there is discontent amongst other ranking systems. There is some arbitrariness to questions. When we are honest, we sometimes end up on the bottom of the list. Moscati—shared example of a STARS credit. STARS does a good job connecting the aspects of sustainability in society. In Transportation—there are credits for local housing options. Under Human Resources—child care is a possible credit. Same with staff professional development.
- People, Planet, Profits. Furlani—have you discussed with environmental engineering? Moscati/Simon—not yet.
- Raab—do we only submit to AASHE STARS in exclusion of other surveys? Moscati—a letter was circulated stating concern with different rankings. A response from a consortium of colleges and universities.
- We would like feedback from the committee. Do committees feel that members would be able to work with us to gather data? Shibley—it feels like this needs a proposal to take back to each committee structure. Outline the goals for buying into this, the approach this represents, the structure of the program itself, and references to the website. Additionally, a considered piece on pros and cons. Why are we doing this and what liabilities do we face? Raab—UB Green will present links to AASHE materials and to other surveys to bring light to the issues we face.
- Shibley—also helpful would be a reference to the AAU schools involved, separated by public and private institutions.

New Business. Follow up for next meeting—beginning prospectus for Fall Forum.

- Simon—Create a description of what ACUPCC reporting would require.
- Final check on the business planning expected during the summer.
- Work with Sean Sullivan for a template for business case, an augmentation of the matrices.
- Summer solar event in the summer, invitation only. Fall ribbon cutting.
- Coffroth—Web portal template sharing.
- Identify additional course offerings.
- Shibley—better read of the planning board schedule and process.
- Raab—connect with HR/IT (Reid & Furlani).

Summer Schedule. We will continue to hold to a monthly meeting.