

ESC Meeting Notes

June 7th, 2011

Members in attendance: Jordan Dalton, Graduate Student Association; Michael Dupre, University Facilities; Saira Hasnain, Information Technology (for Tom Furlani); James Nadbrzuch, Student Affairs; Joseph Raab, University Facilities; Jeffery Reed, Employee Relations; Dan Vivian, Procurement Services; Carol Kobrin, Health Sciences; Kenneth Tramosch, Research; Robert Shibley, chair.

Absent: Beth Del Genio, Office of the Provost; Jean Wactawski-Wende, Strategic Strengths.

Excused: Mary Alice Coffroth, Graduate School; Alan Rabideau, Undergraduate Education.

Staff and others: Erin Moscati, UB Green; James Simon, UB Green; Al Gilewicz, Utility Operations, Fred Stoss, University Libraries, Tricia Kandler, Purchasing.

Review of Meeting Notes: The notes from the May 3rd, 2011 meeting were circulated. The notes were approved for posting on the ESC website.

New Provost/Planning Board: Shibley—The ESC should assemble a briefing for Provost Stenger. Update with current works of the committee. A two page executive summary and a 10 minute powerpoint to be put together by UB Green. Assemble a draft within a week of the meeting. Send a rough document to the Committee. Raab—Bradshaw Hovey put together some material in the past. Shibley—feel free to call upon Bradshaw if needed.

Introducing new members: Saira... Information Technology, Jordan Dalton, Graduate School of Education

Fall Forum: Moscati—UB Green is looking into putting dates together for a fall forum. Student Life is currently updating their reservation system and is unable to view specific dates. We should be able to book a date soon within our timeframe of the latter part of September/early October. We should have a handful of dates to circulate to the committee at the July meeting. The thought behind holding the event in the fall is that students, faculty, and staff will have a chance to plug in versus in spring, where students go home soon after any event that is held. Let's move towards holding something annually in the fall. If we aren't introducing this to them, we can't assume that they know we have a plan for climate neutrality. Shibley—we are resetting the clock on this. By September, we should have 1, 3, 5 year plans.

Committee Reports: Shibley—where is each committee in relation to putting together our three year plan?

Research, Teaching, and Public Service: No report. Alan Rabideau not present.

Information Technology and Human Resources: Sarai—new to the committee. Moving forward with data center work. The HP contract discussed last month did not come to terms. In the process of working with the next vendor. This is on track for the assessment. In conversation with University Facilities for metering. Putting atmospheric sensors in the data center rooms to give a better sense of how rooms are being heated and cooled. Moving forward with thin clients/cloud computing. Further reductions are coming as a result of projects to be completed over the summer.

Shibley—first year projects are being completed. This is great. Dupre—these are dramatic numbers—is that because of new computer hardware? Sarai—this is partly the reason. What is happening is that physical servers were once in areas and now data is put on virtual servers. You can share more than what you think. There is a long way to go.

Materials: Vivian—We are in good shape. We are comfortable with our progress so far. A new area of work—office equipment. Want to make sure that there isn't overlap with IT and that there is some standardization with the type and manufacturer of equipment. Three areas—paper consumption, toner cartridges, and power. Dollars become an issue—money would go back to departments as funding not spent. Not sure if we have a good way of understanding this. Let's be aggressive about recruiting new members—in Campus Life, etc.

Shibley—let's think about a subcommittee refresh over the course of the summer. Vivian—student attendance helped to invigorate the meetings we had this spring. As we begin to frame the forum in September, there is data in and data out and there needs to be a place to “play”. Also, it's worth quantifying our work and communicating that to UB.

Transportation: Nadbrzuch—three working groups. Vanpool. Looking at this from a regional perspective. Park & Ride—still studying. Bus contract—opening up for bid shortly and can work in environmental features into the contract. Transportation has submitted these types of plans for years with no response. Nadbrzuch anticipates incremental increases that are almost double the current cost.

- Shibley—what about the NFTA agreements? Nadbrzuch—no change—still a pilot program, a small group of people have this access. Let's face it—people want to use their cars. Also, it is limited to those in a certain proximity from the rail line. For faculty and staff, whether they have business downtown.
- Shibley— downtown, it is going to be inconvenient to park. With the exception of energy, transportation is the second largest source of emissions. The Hara software could track emissions from Transportation. Dalton—what about the externalities? Simon—can't track this in Hara, but could track it elsewhere.
- Nadbrzuch—budget requests for higher costs have been ignored. Lastly, the Buffalo Blue Bicycle Program has ceased to exist. Attended a bike rental webinar to learn about best practices. May inform future plans. Reed—there are bikes in the impound lot near Crofts. Dalton—is this Amherst? Reed—no, this is at UB near Crofts Hall. Dalton—BPD does a successful auction. Raab—will inquire with Dick Linde. Nadbrzuch—the type of bike has a lot to do with bikes that

are used. UC Irvine—cost intensive program. Kiosks, swipe cards, etc. Nadbrzuch—we may not see monetary savings, but other benefits.

- Shibley—at some point, when we put numbers together on parking structures, this might change the discussion.
- Nadbrzuch—how will the smoking policy impact whether people bring their cars on campus? Shibley—an unanticipated consequence! Reed—the policy was originally meant to reduce second hand smoke.
- Nadbrzuch—Zipcar is taking off. Two new vehicles are coming. Pilot program for departmental Zipcar accounts. Shibley—good story and a reasoned one.

Energy: Dupre—had several discussions with Provost Stenger. When it comes to policy, we need institutional endorsement. The Provost challenged us to save \$1 million a year by the end of the year. We can do better than that. Have Provost support for more aggressive policy. Example is the temperature policy on our website. Conflicts with our focus on customer satisfaction. In other systems, like CAL system, the policies are more rigid. Opens the door for other policies on fan run times, etc. Bringing back the UB Clean program based on discussions with faculty and the Provost. “UB Responsible”—much broader and more in depth. Distribution of savings—a metering project is in process and it will better account for the resources we use. We can establish a baseline of building level costs and savings that we can attribute to tenant changes, which will go back to the unit/department. There is a desire to incentive tenants to create savings. A working group is meeting every Friday to create a report for the Provost.

- Shibley—In terms of the matrix, Energy is almost there.

Communications: Closer to having a rep from Communications and someone from Sean Sullivan’s shop or Sean Sullivan himself. Hope to have someone at the next meeting.

Update of Hara Software: Simon—purchased, staff and student training occurred last week. Creating a living log that will show in real time the projects that we complete in terms of energy as well as transportation and other resource use. We are able to view and compare cost, carbon footprint. Dupre—Facilities is now going back to 1992 with data. Three issues. \$/GSF, Energy consumed by GSF, carbon. Saving during peak cooling saves a premium cost of KWH.

Update on Solar Project: Gilewicz—permits are submitted and in process. Pushing dirt in a few weeks. Panels are in, steel is being fabricated. The project should be completed by the end of the year. Shibley—We are building it. It will be there and it will produce energy right when we need it.

- Dupre—who is working on the public portion of the project? Gilewicz—dual bus drop offs are set up. In terms of marketing involvement, no one is working on this. Requests for tours are coming in. Need to start gearing up this aspect. Shibley—both Dennis and Scott have teams of students that tour the campus. Add this to the tour. Alan Rabideau, weave into course work.

- Shibley—the premise is that we will have communications around the start of construction and a ribbon cutting when we plug it in. Start the ongoing conversation with schools then. Gilewicz—until we show construction activity, there's wonder whether it will happen.
- Shibley—also reducing the mowing regimen in that area. Better ecological return from the remaining ground cover.

AASHE STARS discussion: Moscati—overview was provided at the May 2011 meeting. If we participate, it is fairly intensive in terms of collecting data. We would like to bow out of the other rating systems that we currently participate in. These include Princeton Review and the Sustainable Endowments Institute. We would publish a note describing the reasons why we would go exclusively with STARS. We are looking for a yay/nay from the ESC on whether to participate in the program. There is a \$900 cost for holding a rating for three years. STARS is run by AASHE.

- Reed—is there a cost for the other assessments? Moscati—no, but the other assessments do not provide helpful feedback on how to improve like STARS does. Propose a creation of a working group consisting of ESC members and others to gather data. By creating a working group at the ESC level, we could likely gather better quality data from directors. STARS also takes into account social sustainability. We like that it is very comprehensive. We like that we get feedback and a rating that we know we can improve. There are a number of other AAU institutions that have subscribed to STARS. There is a growing consensus within higher ed institutions that STARS should be the assessment system that schools should use. Letters have been sent, calling out the redundancy and lack of transparency that is part of the other assessments. With STARS, the rating is based on data, not qualitative narrative.
- Raab—single questions, answered the wrong way, can lead to a lower score—see the Sustainable Endowments Institute. This is an example of inaccuracy of other systems. There is a lot of subjectivity.
- Shibley—attempt to align our mission with this data collection process. Can we use the committee structure to channel data to UB Green to cover data entry and is it robust enough to make this happen? A way to report progress in committees in two fashions—1. ACUPCC/carbon 2. Data that will cover the reputation of the university. We have the same committee structure for all or most requests. Is there any reason not to say yes? Let's have those conversations before the next meeting.
- Stoss—state on the admissions page that we participate in one assessment and this is why.
- Shibley—impressive that 26 AAU units are participating. Tramposch—are those schools also participating in the other assessments? We could be at a disadvantage. Simon to draft correspondence to Dennis Black, Scott Weber, grad school reps summarizing the decision from this committee and the number of AAU universities opting out. Raab—staff concerns. Shibley—is it the same data different ways? Or different data? Nadbrzuch—maybe we could request a data analyst position.

New Business: Moscati--We have a new single stream recycling contract. Shibley—less vehicles on campus? Moscati—yes—consolidated all university recycling contracts. Savings are in money, emissions, and time. \$35,000 cost avoidance annually.