

ESC Meeting Notes

July 5, 2011

Members in attendance: Jordan Dalton, Graduate Student Association; Michael Dupre, University Facilities; Saira Hasnain, Information Technology (for Tom Furlani); Tricia Kandler, Procurement Services (for Dan Vivian), James Nadbrzuch, Student Affairs; Joseph Raab, University Facilities; Alan Rabideau, Undergraduate Education, Jeffery Reed, Employee Relations; Robert Shibley, chair, Jean Wactawski-Wende, Strategic Strengths.

Absent: Beth Del Genio, Office of the Provost; Kenneth Tramposch, Research; Dan Vivian, Procurement Services.

Excused: Mary Alice Coffroth, Graduate School; Paul Stephan, Student Association Environmental Department.

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

Review of Meeting Notes: The notes from the June 7, 2011 meeting were circulated. The notes were approved for posting on the ESC website.

Fall Forum: Discussion regarding whether or not to pursue holding a stand-alone forum for the ESC this fall ensued. Moscati-- UB Green spoke to Paul Stephan, Director of SA Environmental Department about our idea for a Fall Forum. Paul informed us that SA Environmental was planning to host a similar event to gather feedback from students the evening of September 15. Would like to contact Paul and have him participate in our discussion today via speaker phone to determine if we can combine events. Nadbrzuch—Should we partner with the organizers of the Greener Shade of Blue & You (GSOB&Y) event on September 21 instead of hosting a separate forum? Perhaps we could have poster board sessions updating attendees of our progress to date. Shibley – To recap, we are discussing hosting a forum in the fall to cater to incoming students. Would GSOB&Y allow us to reach students? Will this allow us to provide the same intensity of engagement as a forum? Rabideau—GSOB&Y does have formal presentations from academic groups. Shibley—We could always give a formal presentation on the CAP and get feedback. Dalton- Is the idea of holding a forum to get feedback? Kandler—Who is GSOB&Y's target audience? Nadbrzuch—Since it is in the Student Union, I think students will attend. Gilewicz— We may have better luck getting students attention if we are a part of the GSOB&Y event. Dalton—How do we get meaningful engagement from the student body? Do subcommittee presentations engage the students? Dupre—The Energy Subcommittee has a challenge from Provost Stenger to engage students, as part of a broader program. Dennis Black is convening the group, once formed we should let that group handle student engagement. Shibley—This sounds like something positive, but not exactly related to the forum. Having subcommittees provide short presentations and offer students short surveys to complete may help us gather the feedback we're looking for. We need to let students know we have a CAP, that we have made significant progress since its implementation and let them know we are still open to suggestions and feedback. Dalton—I am particularly interested in engaging graduate students. Shibley—It sounds as if this may need to be handled by a subcommittee. Communications

may be best suited for this role, but we don't have a chair yet. Hasnain—Has the ESC ever thought of creating an environmental “channel” on MyUB? It could serve as both push and pull. Raab—We could use the existing committee structure to determine the type of feedback we'd like to receive. Shibley—This could help us generate feedback specific to the needs of each subcommittee, increase awareness, and promote our commitment and a culture of sustainability. Rabideau—Engineers for a Sustainable World are hosting the national meeting on campus October 20 and 21, 2011. The faculty advisor is Jim Jenson, we should reach out to see if there's an opportunity to connect with the group. If subcommittees developed a standard poster presentation it could travel to different events. Shibley—A poster display would be a good idea. This would allow us to have a presence at a number of events, without having to host our own. Kandler—UB Business Days is October 27. This is an opportunity for faculty and staff to learn about the business operations of the university. Shibley—We need to assemble an attempt to rationalize this discussion and determine next steps forward. If there is a way to engage students through MyUB, we should explore this. UB Green should describe the opportunities, so we can justify the need for a Communications chair to Dennis Black. Each committee should develop a poster to be presented at the GSOB&Y event and at future events. The poster should state the charge of the committee and current progress. The information on the posters could also be used to create a PowerPoint. Moscati—We should determine how to proceed with the Fall Forum. We have a number of dates on hold for the Student Union Theater, but need to decide today what dates should be released. Shibley—We should release the holds on all dates. At this point, we should proceed as though we are not holding an ESC forum, but should plan to take advantage of other outreach opportunities. Dalton—As long as we get information “out” and “in” cancelling a standalone ESC forum is okay.

Committee Reports:

Research, Teaching, and Public Service: Rabideau—One items gathered at our Spring Forum was to direct committee focus away from environmental focused majors, and focus more on developing a program focused on campus wide environmental literacy. I have reached out to general education committee and will report back; this may take a while. In the meantime we are compiling a list of climate and sustainability related seminars. This list will be posted for students. We would also like this information to land on the GSOB webpage. We have a survey, based upon one conducted at Yale, which will be implemented in a few classes this fall. The survey provides a good assessment of climate literacy. I will be teaching a climate seminar this fall, to be repeated in the spring. EPA P3 grant was not funded. We did not receive good feedback as to why funding was denied. The application process was very laborious and costly. As a result, we will not be applying to EPA grants in future. However, we may still work with Al Gilewicz to implement the proposal. Shibley- Can the Yale survey be distributed to other departments, with the request that professors distribute? Rabideau- We are in the process of doing this. We learned that the discovery seminar jumped in with a higher understanding of the science, but not a greater understanding of what students can do. We are still figuring out a plan to implement. Shibley- In the spirit of our matrix, will the survey show up as a separate column? It may be useful to use this as a tool to measure our literacy and develop a baseline. Rabideau- We need to figure out how the survey figures into the CAP.

Information Technology and Human Resources: Hasnain—All members of the subcommittee have been identified. An electronic list of members will be sent to Erin Moscati. The subcommittee met and developed a report. There are twenty separate initiatives in progress; they pertain to promoting a general culture of sustainability, installing higher efficiency models in data centers, and classroom IT initiatives. There are some initiatives which deal with culture change, which we will need decanal support for. We have identified the parties which we need help from. In terms of classroom initiatives, we will be monitoring the resources different professors use to help us consolidate space and ensure rooms are scheduled appropriately. Potential cost savings are not yet identified. We feel that once we are halfway through the implementation phase we should be able to determine cost savings. Shibley—Being able to estimate cost savings is critical to ensuring savings are not completely “reabsorbed”. If you are able to fast track estimated cost savings the information would be helpful to make the case for re-investing savings into future environmental initiatives.

Materials: Kandler—We have reached out to Staples for information on their PVC free products. Staples has confirmed that all Avery products are PVC-free. Avery products comprise a good chunk of possible supply-related items we purchase that could contain PVC. The recycling subcommittee is in process of launching our new All in One recycling program. Shibley-- What about other chemicals? What group tracks the use of chemicals used on campus? Raab- Environment Health & Safety looks at trying to substitute chemicals used in labs with less toxic alternatives. EHS encourages micro scale experiments to limit the use of chemicals. Shibley-- We need to be looking at PVC, but also all chemicals which have a negative impact on health. Specifically, the pesticides applied to campus lawns and manicured areas. We have a responsibility to limit the use of pesticides on campus per the Landscape Master Plan. Pesticides should not be applied to our flower beds. Dupre—Pesticides should not be applied to flower beds. They should only be applied to athletic fields and along fence borders. I will follow up with Lou Schmitt to ensure our pesticide policy is being adhered to.

Transportation: Nadbrzuch—We may have to focus on whether we’re able to develop a van pool on our own, as opposed to working with the GBNRTC. Things seem to be moving very slowly with GBNRTC. We continue to move forward with studying the funding and liability associated with the creation of a van pool. We have talked to a few universities that have van pools in place, but they are all state sponsored. We are trying to identify programs that are independently operated. The new bus contract has been awarded for 2012. All buses will have GPS, and the number of alternative fueled vehicles has been increased.

Energy: Dupre- We have been updating the CAP, and working on project from Provost Stenger. There is also a focus on greening our Downtown Campus. Most recently we have been working on the SUNY strategic plan for an Energy Smart NY. I will have new CAP developed within 2 weeks.

Communications: Shibley—have strategy to repopulate Communications group. Will be meeting with Dennis Black to identify chair.

Planning Board 3-Year Plan Presentation: Moscati—Update on planning board presentation. A document with our progress to date has been created, and a brief PowerPoint is in development. Will

need updated matrixes from all subcommittee chairs in order to complete PowerPoint. If you have been contacted via email, we do not have your latest matrix. Please send matrix ASAP. Our committee has a UB Learns site, which is being updated. Rabideau- Can you make all committee chairs "Teaching Assistants" to allow us to add new members as needed. Moscati—I will email committee when UB Learns posts are made to ensure people are aware new information is available. An electronic copy of the 3 Year Plan will be circulated for aggressive review; a due date for comments will be included. Shibley—Please add a paragraph which addresses using the ESC's need to use funds associated with returns on investment. We need to reinforce that some continued investment is required in order to gain future returns, and that not all funds be reinvested into the general pool.

AASHE STARS: Moscati— A letter which justifies our participation in STARS has been created for Scott Weber, Sean Sullivan and Dennis Black. Rabideau—My initial reaction is there is great risk to recruiting new students if we do not participate in other rating systems/assessments particularly with students interested in environmental programs. If we drop the ball on communicating STARS it would be difficult for students to find information related to our environmental initiatives. Our profile in the "environmental" world could drop. Moscati- We would need to work with Admissions and the Office of Institutional Analysis to ensure STARS is understood and promoted by their offices. Raab-- One of the reasons we would prefer to no longer participate in other rating systems, and focus on STARS, relates to the fact that we feel we are being unfairly ranked. We have been getting C's and D's in categories which we don't think are warranted. Rabideau- Then not participating in those rankings makes sense. Shibley -- We're trying to determine if we're more hurt by a "no response" than by actually responding and being graded unfairly. UB Green please add paragraph to letter of justification which addresses this issue, stress the necessity to use a rating system which has transparent methodology. Please circulate this version for committee review.

New Business: Dalton-- Something needs to happen to improve our cycling infrastructure, particularly concerning the bike lanes in the Town of Amherst which are used by students riding between North and South campuses. Is this something the transportation committee can address? Shibley-- We have an understanding with Amherst for bike paths, roadways, etc. Raab-- There is a UB cycling committee which works on these issues; we can mention this issue to the committee to ensure it is on their radar.