

ESC Meeting Notes

December 6th, 2011

Members in attendance: Saira Hasnain, Information Technology (for Tom Furlani); Dan Vivian, Procurement Services; Kenneth Tramosch, Research; Paul Stephan, Student Association; Alan Rabideau, Undergraduate Education; Mary Alice Coffroth, Graduate School; Robert Shibley, chair; Michael Dupre, University Facilities.

Absent: Jean Wactawski-Wende, Strategic Strengths; James Nadbrzuch, University Life and Services; Joe Raab, University Facilities.

Excused: Jeffery Reed, Employee Relations; Ryan McPherson, Office of Sustainability; Erin Moscati, Office of Sustainability.

Staff and others: James Simon, Office of Sustainability; Al Gilewicz, Utility Operations; Emily Gibson, Office of Sustainability.

- **Review of meeting notes.** Additions or corrections on November 1, 2011 meeting. Minutes were approved and will be posted online.
- **Student Update:** Paul Stephan—Greenify Your Life event took place recently. Was a great event. Thank you to the committee representatives. Received feedback from students that has been positive so far.

- **Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System Review:**

Simon—Moving forward with AASHE STARS-course “Sustainability in practice”, a way for students to assist in data collection for STARS. Running in spring semester, hope to collect most if not all data. During the summer continue to collect data, refine it, provide product at October meeting, review it, before we need to submit it at the end of November.

ACUPCC progress report due on the Friday, but Second Nature didn’t release reporting tool until yesterday. We will apply for an extension and tie this data collection into STARS course.

- **Solar Strand Update:** Gilewicz—big steel went in. In the process of putting in the wireway paths. Wiring the panels on the south side. Continue towards the North. Landscaping to continue as weather breaks. All the panels will be installed as soon as they can get to the structures. Want to have 1/3 functioning by the end of the month. Shibley-How will panels be brought online? Gilewicz—each strand goes to an individual inverter. Shibley- Outdoor steel is very powerful. Can see the classroom coming together.
- **Public Climate Seminars:** Rabideau—given the fact that we have a lot of people doing scholarship in climate science and mitigation, there is an opportunity to dovetail with the

Climate Talks. Other interesting items—Ezra Zubrow is doing an arctic climate change conference and Ken Shockley is doing a conference on environmental ethics. In talking to colleagues, the skepticism issue is something to address. We need some voices out there, but the right vehicle is not there. Shibley—another “two-fer” marrying the climate talks with the discovery seminar work. Rabideau—Yes, we have the science and the effects of public health. Maybe the audience is the confused public, not the active advocates.

- Dalton—documentation—a lot of these lectures exist, happen, and are gone. We need to capture these events better through video and a slideshow. Second, if we are targeting skeptics, what’s the methodology to bring them in? How do we get them to come out if they are skeptical in the first place? Rabideau—there’s a neutral way that we can communicate what is being done. The Mini Medical School model might serve us well. Shibley—Jordan, do you have any thoughts? Dalton—there is an issue of narrative that we struggle with. The “pro” climate change falls back on science while the “anti” climate change model relies on factoids. Not sure if there is a solution. This is a big problem nationally and globally. The phrase climate change might be fraught, so addressing the every day issues, small changes that are occurring, might be a different lens for approaching this. Gibson—could these talks be directed towards more practical issues like retrofitting homes that are more pertinent to daily lives? A lot of programs out there—hand out free kits—could be an incentive to come to these. Rabideau—not what I have in mind—trying to draw on faculty expertise.
- Shibley—channeling McPherson—one dream is a unified website, the other is connecting the dots. So that a broader discussion can weave in home energy, conversations, and faculty research. Construct a place to go to address all these things. Stephan—focus on sustainability. It’s more positive. People get turned off by apocalyptic climate change talk. Should address climate change but also offer a positive message. Shibley—interesting that we call ourselves “Environmental” Stewardship, given all of our other forays into sustainability efforts. Dupre—presented to incoming MBA students and spoke with 120 students. Asked how many people believed that humans were impacting the climate? Delivered the message in tiers—climate change, conservation—fossil fuels are finite, budget.
- **Sustainability Office Update:** Simon—Last week ETF meeting-exercised new format-education, feedback, and networking. Jim, Paul, and Ryan presented what they learned at AASHE, got a lot of feedback from students and staff. Can increase attendance at these events, want ESC’s help in spreading word about these meetings. Doing an inventory of web resources, working with Communication Department to create a one stop web portal. Trying to show case work on campus. Ryan is presenting on our strengths in research and pollution prevention at the Healthy Environment, Healthy Economies conference in Albany. Upstate Green Business Networks Green Drinks at Greiner Hall—January 4th, 2012. Starts at 6pm, there will be a tour of sustainability aspects of UB (ex: solar strand, compost machine, Davis and Greiner hall) at 4:30pm.
- **Lightning Round Committee Updates:** Shibley—we have gone through some administrative changes and with each change, there is a new way of doing things. We had, through the transition from Satish, Harvey putting forth a new commitment to a planning discipline

through the Planning Board. That Planning Board is the executive leadership of the University. That any single Vice President might choose to carry the sustainability agenda is better than one. They can do that if they have a Planning Board forum to make decisions. We have spreadsheets that are almost there and a business plan that's almost ready. Haven't gotten back to the Planning Board because of its idiosyncratic meeting schedule. Harvey confirmed that it is together. Harvey is onto other things, and new Interim Provost sees what we are doing. Would be useful to finish the work, bless it and get it to the Planning Board.

Research, Teaching, and Public Service: Alan Rabideau—doing the discovery seminar again. Retooling to “what is happening at UB”. Populating schedule with committee members and looking for campus and community members. Wednesday's at 9am this spring. Tramosch—three proposals went out—Joe Atkinson—managing freshwater resources. Alex Annis. Samina Raja—food security. New initiative at the National Science Foundation—5\$ million per year. Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability—SEEDS. Also submitting three proposals related to energy—sustainable energy. Two of these are solar energy.

Rabideau—one of the schools has proposed a course in sustainability. Is any course that deals with sustainability going to address the goals of the university or should we have a conversation about content? This would be a required course that would cover a lot of students in a large school. What's the role of this committee and the RTPS committee in commenting on course content? Don't micromanage—if you are considering sustainability, then here is some content. Shibley—could there be a white paper on the state of our curriculum? That we might connect and create a set of materials that are web and paper based. Come back with something on this as part of the larger discussion. Rabideau—The STARS process will give us a framework for a white paper and a discussion.

Information Technology and Human Resources: Tom Furlani /Saira Hasnain—Same projects continue. Received report from consultant on data center. Met with student assigned to sub-committee. Gave him information on the committee. Didn't get direct feedback on that, but he suggested adding ebooks. Outgoing Provost had an interest in this, but more because of cost saving issues. How do we move forward with this? Shibley—and with what returns? The ebook is a teaching tool. Talk with Alan Rabideau and his committee? Talk to Fred Stoss in the Libraries.

Materials: Dan Vivian—working on matrix. A summary will be available in January. Looking for new membership for the committee. Already have brought several new staff in. Looking for broader coverage. In Lake Placid at a procurement seminar, one of the speakers was involved in sustainability. Need to be able to pull together best practices and share it with the group.

Energy: Mike Dupre—We are at an interesting time. Finding that the tree is getting barer and barer in terms of energy conservation projects. Provosts challenge—put a lot of work into this. Draft Policy is still draft and haven't been approved by Harvey. For an interim time, reporting to Dennis, and may be willing to back step some of these policies. As Facilities pursues other big ideas such as thermal storage—using the lower cost of power at night. Finding less opportunity for significant savings in projects. Focusing on source. First, what can we generate on campus. Need to explore grant opportunities. We are growing--\$2.8 million in utility costs while we are trying to save. Energy costs are at a 10 year low. Makes it

challenging to do large projects. NYPA wind project was withdrawn. The Steel Winds expansion is also on hold. A lot of work and a lot of challenges.

- **New Business/Announcements:** Regional Institute/Urban Design Project made a planning grant application and the award is in--\$2 million grant over three years. Will produce through the RI/UDP a climate action plan, housing plan, and food systems plan for the two counties and will coordinate with the five county regional economic council.
- **Adjournment**