



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

P.O. Box 8180 • Austin, Texas 78713-8180

(512) 232-7742 • Fax: (512) 232-7720

December 21, 2010

President William Powers, Jr.
MAI 400 (G3400)

Dear Bill:

Please find enclosed the President's Sustainability Steering Committee (PSSC) annual report summarizing the key discussions of the PSSC over the 2009-10 academic year (AY) and highlights of the PSSC work agenda for the 2010-11 academic year already underway.

During AY 2009-10, the PSSC held four full committee meetings and two meetings each of the Academic and Operations sub-committees. The membership of the PSSC is listed on page five of this report.

The charge of the PSSC is to develop recommendations on policy and operations to reflect the University's commitment to sustainability and stewardship of the environment, and to serve as the principal channel of communication between the campus community and the University administration on setting priorities for sustainability related activities.

We look forward to refining and forwarding specific recommendations to you as we continue our discussions through the spring 2011 semester.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Pat Clubb", written over a circular stamp that contains the word "Sincerely,".

Pat Clubb, Ph.D.
Vice President for University Operations

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Frederick Steiner", written in a cursive style.

Frederick Steiner, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Architecture

Enclosure

BACKGROUND

The President's Task Force on Sustainability was launched in May, 2007 and successfully developed a University Sustainability Policy that was adopted in April, 2008.

The group was revitalized in the Fall of 2009 with new Co-Chair Dean Fritz Steiner (along with continuing Co-Chair Vice President Pat Clubb), expanded membership (including Chris Plonsky, Athletics and Dr. Ray Orbach, Energy Institute), and with support from the newly appointed Director of Sustainability (within Campus Planning and Facilities Management under University Operations).

The Task Force was also re-commissioned as the President's Sustainability Steering Committee (PSSC) to align with a recently adopted UT-System policy on Sustainability Procedures (UTS 169). The PSSC formed two sub-committees to focus on Academics and Operations, each with a distinct charge. Both sub-committees are charged with making recommendations related to their charge to the PSSC that include recommended action steps; fiscal impacts, if any; assessment criteria for evaluating success.

Future PSSC Annual Reports will be approved in September at the close of the academic year.

ACADEMICS

The Academic Committee of the PSSC is charged with enhancing the University's commitment to excellence in sustainability education and research by making recommendations on:

- integrating sustainability concepts into curricula, enhancing sustainability educational offerings and producing scholars who are literate in sustainability;
- supporting interdisciplinary scholarship, research and faculty hires;
- increasing faculty and student awareness of sustainability issues;
- identifying research areas and opportunities that illuminate and advance sustainability.

Evaluating sustainability in the curriculum

Beginning with a discussion about how to work with, or provide training to, faculty to integrate sustainability concepts into the curriculum campus-wide, the Academic Committee decided first to compile examples of discipline specific applications of sustainability in curriculum. This approach taps the deep expertise on-campus within each major College and School and will provide a solid baseline from which to further evaluate sustainability throughout the curriculum.

Academic Sustainability Directory

In Fall, 2009, the Office of the Provost tasked Susan Rieff, Executive Director of the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center (and member of the PSSC) with developing a dynamic, relational-database, online "catalog" of the sustainability related academic activities at UT-Austin, with a delivery deadline of Dec, 2010. The audience for the catalog would include current and prospective students, faculty, and current and prospective research donors. Based on reviewing peer universities' efforts, the catalog will be a national model. Link to active directory: wwwtest.utexas.edu/sustainability/directory

President's Sustainability Steering Committee 2009-10 Annual Report

The Academics Committee has served as a sounding board for the design, functionality and navigation of the catalog as it has been developed. The catalog is anticipated to be "live" in a beta format late in the Fall, 2010 semester and is on track for delivery by the end of the year. The catalog would be maintained by the Office of Sustainability.

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC

Several additional activities during the year highlight the work of PSSC members or will certainly influence the future work of the PSSC itself.

Development of a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science

Spear-headed by Dr. Jay Banner in the Jackson School of Geosciences and Director of the Environmental Science Institute, the new Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science (EVS) Program was submitted to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in early 2010. *[The EVS Program was approved in October, 2010 by the THECB and is included in the 2010-12 Undergraduate Catalog]*

The EVS Program is a set of three new interdisciplinary degree plans operated collaboratively by the College of Natural Sciences, the Jackson School of Geosciences, the College of Liberal Arts, and the School of Undergraduate Studies. The EVS program's strong core of scientific coursework distinguishes it from less technical programs that emphasize environmental study and policy, and the interdisciplinary nature of the EVS program distinguishes it from courses of study that are housed in a single discipline. Link: www.esi.utexas.edu/education/EVS.html

Thermal Lab

Formally opened in Fall 2009, the Thermal Lab is the University of Texas at Austin's new experimental laboratory for conducting research on innovative façade design, glazing, shading, window treatments, and other energy-efficient building technologies. It is located on the south side of the West Mall Building within the UT School of Architecture complex. Link: soa.utexas.edu/csd/research/experimental-research

OPERATIONS

The Operations Committee of the PSSC is charged with integrating values of sustainability, stewardship, and resource conservation into activities and services in order to achieve the goal of optimizing the efficiencies of its operations and services while minimizing its wastes and footprint by making recommendations on:

- engaging in pollution prevention activities and compliance with all relevant environmental laws and regulations;
- improving the long-term quality and regenerative capacity of the environmental, social and economic systems that support the University's activities and needs;
- developing and promoting practices that maximize beneficial effects and minimize harmful effects of operations, research and activities on the surrounding environment.

Collaboration with academics

In response to requests from faculty, the Campus Planning and Facilities Management division developed a list of projects for students in Dr. Banner's Signature Course. Several of the completed projects have been carried forward by staff into improving campus operations.

President's Sustainability Steering Committee

2009-10 Annual Report

Climate Action Planning

The University released the *2009 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory* in April, 2009 with a series of presentations to staff, students and faculty groups. Based on data through 2006, the University is estimated to have an annual total of 475,671 metric tons carbon dioxide equivalents (MTCO₂eq). Of this, 233,839 MTCO₂eq (49%) annually are related to natural gas consumption on Main Campus. Office of Sustainability staff is updating the GHG Inventory.

University Operations contracted a climate policy risk assessment for the University based on trends in federal legislation, speculation carbon pricing, and the University's GHG Inventory. As this report is released, the findings will be discussed with various stakeholders. The Office of Sustainability will oversee the development of climate action strategies with the PSSC and campus community as climate policy continues to be monitored. Link: www.utexas.edu/operations/sustainability/activities/climate.php

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONS

Several additional activities during the year highlight the work of University operations and/or will influence future discussions of the PSSC.

Improvements to UT-Austin power plant

UT-Austin's Utilities and Energy Management division continues to invest in energy efficiency upgrades that benefit the entire campus. Link: www.utexas.edu/utilities/projects/

- The Thermal Energy Storage facility project began in the Spring 2009 and was completed in Fall 2010. The facility is located in the F26 parking lot, just north of the San Jacinto Garage. The facility is a 100-foot diameter by 75-foot-high tank containing more than four million gallons of chilled water, supporting about a 41,000-ton-hour capacity. The tank will add capacity to the campus cooling system, allowing for increased overall efficiency.
- A new gas turbine - Gas Turbine #10 - is located in the Power Plant Annex Building (PPA) on 24th Street just west of San Jacinto Street. The new unit will replace an existing gas turbine and boiler. Electrical generating capacity will be increased at this site from 14 megawatts to 34 megawatts, bringing the campus total capacity to about 140 megawatts.

Composting by Division of Housing and Food Services

Beginning in Fall 2010, Division of Housing and Food Service is now commercially composting pre- and post-consumer food waste and compostable dinnerware items from all kitchens and dining locations. Texas Disposal Systems regularly picks up compactors specifically designated for compostable waste. In these few short months, DHFS has diverted over 30 tons of waste from the landfill, approximately 6% of our total waste stream.

Athletics

During the drought in late summer 2009, UT Athletics fields were watered only twice weekly, except as needed for safety and welfare of student-athletes when temperatures reach 105 degrees on the field.

UT Athletics worked with TxDOT to form the "Longhorns Don't Litter" community service message to be used in conjunction with the "Don't Mess with Texas" campaign to promote a clean environment.

Longhorns Recycling Roundup continued to achieve high participation rates in Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium throughout the football season. Recycling Roundup focuses on 24-ounce plastic cups and bottles at UT Athletics facilities.

UT Athletics also demonstrates high commitment to energy conservation by reviewing energy usage on a daily basis and strategically reducing demand within various facilities as appropriate to their use.

ADDITIONAL INITIATIVES

Sustainability on the UT-Austin Campus Symposium

Springing from a PSSC discussion, the Center for Sustainable Development repurposed their new annual symposium series to focus on sustainability efforts across campus as presented by faculty, staff and students. Several sustainability focused organizations on campus co-sponsored the event. The Symposium was held on September 10, 2010.

Following the success of the symposium, the PSSC Co-Chairs have suggested the PSSC adopt the format and timing (early September) for an annual 'State of Sustainability at UT-Austin' symposium that would highlight the efforts and initiatives of the PSSC as a whole, it's members, and a broad cross-section of the campus community. Presentations, video: soa.utexas.edu/csd/research/symposia

Sustainable Sites Initiative

The Sustainable Sites Initiative™ (SITES™) is an interdisciplinary effort by the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at The University of Texas at Austin and the United States Botanic Garden to create voluntary national guidelines and performance benchmarks for sustainable land design, construction and maintenance practices. *The Sustainable Sites Initiative: Guidelines and Performance Benchmarks 2009*, was released on November 5, 2009.

Over 150 Pilot Projects are participating in the SITES two-year Pilot Program (June 2010-June 2012). These projects represent a diverse cross-section of project types, sizes and geographic locations in various stages of development from design to construction and maintenance. SITES Pilot Projects will be the first projects in the United States and abroad to demonstrate the application of the SITES guidelines. Link: www.sustainablesites.org/

UT-Austin Sustainability Web Portal

The PSSC discussed the need for a web presence for UT-Austin that would function as a portal to all of the sustainability activities on campus. Such a portal would need to be branded to the University and not to any particular academic or operational unit. The Office of Sustainability was tasked with developing the portal in alignment with the REFRESH web design effort. The portal is on track to go live in January 2011.

Green Fee

UT-Austin students approved a new student fee to begin in Fall 2011 that will generate approximately \$500k annually for 'environmental service' projects on campus through a student majority committee that is currently being assembled. While the PSSC does not have a formal relationship with the Green Fee Committee or how the fee might be prioritized and allocated, various stakeholders expect a close working relationship to emerge between the Green Fee Committee and the PSSC.

President's Sustainability Steering Committee
2009-10 Annual Report

MEMBERSHIP, 2009-2010

Title	Name		Dept/School
Dr.	Pat	Clubb	Co-Chair - Vice-President, University Operations
Dean	Fritz	Steiner	Co-Chair - Dean, School of Architecture
	Rachel	Aitkens	Undergrad Student appt. by Campus Environmental Center
Dr.	David	Allen	Department of Chemical Engineering, Cockrell School of Engineering
Dr.	Jay	Banner	Department of Geological Sciences, Jackson School of Geosciences
Dr.	Kelley	Crews	Department of Geography and the Environment, College of Liberal Arts
Dr.	David	Eaton	Lyndon B Johnson School of Public Affairs
Dr.	Ofofike	Ezekoye	Department of Mechanical Engineering, Cockrell School of Engineering
Dr.	Larry	Gilbert	Section of Integrative Biology, College of Natural Sciences
Dr.	Charles	Groat	Department of Geological Sciences, Jackson School of Geosciences
Dr.	Bob	Harkins	Campus Safety and Security, University Operations
Dr.	David	Hillis	Section of Integrative Biology, College of Natural Sciences
Dr.	Floyd	Hoelting	Division of Housing and Food Services, Student Affairs
	Paula	Ivey	Department of Marketing Administration, McCombs School of Business
	Katie	Kizziar	Graduate Student appt. by Graduate Student Assembly
Dr.	Steve	Kraal	Campus Planning and Facilities Management, University Operations
Dr.	Werner	Lang	School of Architecture
Dr.	Daene	McKinney	Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering
Dr.	Steven	Moore	School of Architecture
Dr.	Raymond	Orbach	Energy Institute
	Chris	Plonsky	Associate Athletic Director, Athletics
	Susan	Rieff	Executive Director, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
Dr.	Bill	Sage	School of Law
	Peter	Schneider	Environmental Health and Safety, University Operations
	Melinda	Taylor	School of Law
	Drucilla	Tigner	Undergrad Student appt. by Campus Environmental Center
Dr.	Steve	Windhager	Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
	Jim	Walker	Director of Sustainability, University Operations

WORK AGENDA FOR 2010-11

The PSSC intends to hold at least two meetings in the Fall 2010 semester and Spring 2011 semester. Sub-committee meetings will be as frequent as required.

The following are ongoing or anticipated initiatives the PSSC will be discussing.

Online visibility and resources

The sustainability academic directory will be highly publicized during the Spring 2011 semester and will be linked directly off of the new sustainability web portal. Both online resources will require technical support (to be provided through the Office of Sustainability) as well as periodic review to ensure implementation is on track with expectations.

Sustainability Concentrations within each School

In parallel with the sustainability academic catalog, work will continue to identify and promote all of the academic opportunities that have a sustainability focus as defined within the many and specific disciplines on campus.

Natural Resource Management and Conservation Strategic Plan

Campus Planning and Facilities Management will refine a strategic plan with the Operations Committee to recommend specific goals in the areas of energy and water and waste reductions and efficiency improvements. The Operations Committee will review estimated fiscal needs and benefits.

After review, the PSSC will have the option to forward the plan to the President for consideration.

Car-sharing

Beginning in January 2011, Parking and Transportation Services has partnered with Zipcar, a car-sharing program, to bring 8 self-service vehicles to campus, available on-demand, 24/7, that can be used by the hour or day. The program will be made available to all UT students, faculty, and staff ages 18 and older for personal and/or business use. Link: zipcar.com/utexas