

The Sustainability Advisory Panel was commenced in April 2007, with the charge to assist in guiding the University's future sustainability planning

Panel Members

Ralph Allen
Melody Bianchetto
Richard Brownlee
Luis Carrazana
Cheryl Gomez
Tom Harkins
Susan Harris
Dave Hudson
Beth Kahley
Rich Kovatch
Fred Missel
Paxton Marshall
Julia Monteith
David Neuman
John Quale
Jeff Sitrler
Don Sundgren
Connie Warnock
Becca White
Mark White

Presenters

Richard Brownlee
Jeff Sitrler

PROCEEDINGS

The second 2008 quarterly meeting was held on July 10th in the Clark Hall Odom Room.

Sustainability Advisory Panel Meeting Notes – Thursday July 10, 2008

Proceedings

David Neuman began the meeting with an announcement that the Sustainability Advisory Panel was recently formed into a Presidential Committee and President Casteen, COO Sandridge, and Provost Garson wished to thank the members of the committee for their work that led to this announcement. When the committee meets for the first time in the fall under its new status, many of the current members will remain as members and others would continue to be active in the committee's work and broader sustainability efforts. The Provost will work in collaboration with the committee in its mission to improve the teaching and pedagogy of sustainability.

Once convened, an immediate goal of the committee will be a 10-year plan to reduce the University's carbon footprint.

Rebecca White, Director of Parking and Transportation, informed the panel of the soon-to-be-announced CAVPOOL program which offers assistance and incentives to University employees to utilize car and vanpooling. The program is part of the University's Transportation Demand Management (TDM) effort, which is aggressively pursuing alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle use at the University. Other initiatives include covered bicycle parking installed in the new 11th Street Garage, the installation of bicycle racks on UTS buses, and a new car sharing program to begin in the fall.

Sustainability at Darden

Richard Brownlee, Professor in the Darden Graduate School of Business, presented information on sustainability at the Darden School. Mr. Brownlee was joined by Erika Herz, Manager of Sustainability Programs. Mr. Brownlee has taught at the Darden School for 15 years and been active in sustainability education and initiatives at Darden since that time. Mr. Brownlee points to the establishment of the Olsson Center for Business Ethics, created in the 1960's, as setting the first foundation for sustainability programs at Darden, one focused on personal responsibility. Moving forward to more recent history, on April 24, 2008 Dean Robert Bruner announced Darden's Sustainability Pledge: "We are committed to becoming a zero waste, carbon neutral institution by 2020. We will also be a thought leader in sustainability by 2013. We'll continue to develop staff and establish metrics and goals pertaining to the reduction of waste." Implementation of this pledge involves efforts by faculty, students and staff. Faculty efforts will be led by the Deans and a Faculty Team committed to this effort, the student group Net Impact at Darden will continue to lead student related efforts and Ms. Herz will manage staff efforts. Darden has also joined the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE) and the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), both of these memberships apply to the entire University, not just the Darden community. Mr. Brownlee shared a series of related video excerpts for the panel.

Mr. Brownlee detailed some of the Darden School's current and planned programs, including a new podcast series focused on sustainability: the Darden GreenPod, new collaborative course between Darden Professor Andy Larson and Commerce Professor Mark White focused on topics in entrepreneurial innovation, and the planning of a new project-based graduate level course in sustainability open to all University graduate students.

Environmental Management System

Jeff Sittler, Environmental Compliance Manager for Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) presented an update on the Environmental Management System (EMS). The EMS is an organized review of all environmental aspects of a unit. The first pass of the review is conducted from a regulatory basis, the second from a sustainability perspective.

EH&S has been applying EMS reviews to individual University departments and have now completed reviews of all Business Operations units. The extensive EMS for Facilities Management is currently underway and is expected to be completed in approximately 6 months. Once complete, EH&S will apply the EMS to the School of Architecture and the Environmental Sciences Department; these will be the first academic units at UVa to participate in the EMS. Departments are selected by a steering committee, which prioritizes departments based on their environmental footprint and willingness to improve.

Dining Services has been working with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to acquire a permit to allow the composting of food waste from dining halls. The composting program, which involves significant student participation, is expected to begin this fall. Collected food waste will be transported to the Panorama Pay Dirt composting facility, where it will be composted and sold by Panorama. The only cost to the University is in transporting the food waste to the composting facility in Earlysville, a distance of approximately 8 miles.

<http://ehs.virginia.edu/EMS/home.html>

SPeAR

The Sustainable Project Appraisal Routine (SPeAR) was developed by Arup, an international consulting firm with a basis in engineering. SPeAR is used to assess the sustainability performance of a project, plan, product or company. UVa engaged Arup to conduct the SPeAR assessment at UVa in support of the Grounds Plan. Upon completion, UVa staff customized the product for the University.

SPeAR utilizes a graphical device to quickly summarize the results of the assessment, referred to as the rosette. Laid out similarly to a dartboard, each triangular slice represents an assessed category of sustainability, such as "Energy Efficiency" and "Diversity". After extensive research and interviews with UVa stakeholders, each category was given a rating, the highest being +3 and the lowest -3. The rating is displayed as a panel of color in each slice, those closest to the bull's-eye are +3 ratings and receive a dark green color, and those on the perimeter are -3 and are

