August 26, 2014

Dear Colleagues,

In June, the Chancellor approved a new procedure (attached) to provide a framework for developing and evaluating new sustainability policies and initiatives for our campus. The Sustainability Working Advisory Teams (SWATeams) represent a vital part of this process, as they harness the collective intellectual power and expertise of our faculty, staff, and students to gather information, synthesize data, and formulate recommendations for how our campus should advance its sustainability goals. With this letter, I ask that you serve on the SWATeam listed below.

Your team is expected to select a chair to preside over your meetings; it is anticipated that most SWATeams will select a faculty member as chair, but this is not required. The Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (iSEE) will provide logistical support for your activities. A Campus Sustainability Intern from iSEE will be appointed to help coordinate your meetings and prepare minutes and reports, which will be made publicly available on the iSEE website. Ben McCall, Associate Director for Campus Sustainability will provide guidance to your committee as needed. Your team is also expected to constitute a Consultation Group for input; this group will consist of faculty, staff, students, and community members with expertise in all areas encompassed by your topic. Your team should select the Consultation Group members, based on consultations with iSEE staff and/or self-nominations from prospective participants, and you should consult with members of your Consultation Group in formal meetings and/or informally as you deem appropriate. Your team should also hold regular public meetings to harness the collective power of the knowledge and enthusiasm of the broader community. However, recommendations and other work products will be finalized by your team itself, after synthesizing input from your Consultation Group and the community.

Your team has four specific charges:

1) This spring, each SWATeam prepared an evaluation of the campus’s progress in meeting targets in the 2010 Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP) in its area. Your first task will be to update that evaluation to reflect data from Fiscal Year 2014, and submit the updated evaluation to the iCAP Working Group (iWG) by September 30.

2) You should re-assess our current sustainability targets, develop strategies that can be realistically used to reach those targets, and prepare recommendations for revisions to the iCAP. This should include the development of a recommended long-range pathway for achieving carbon neutrality and other long-term goals. I ask that you present your recommended revisions at the iCAP Forum on Campus Sustainability Day (October 22), and transmit a complete draft of your suggested changes to the iWG by the end of October. The iWG will synthesize the recommendations from the SWATeams and the public input into a complete document, and transmit that to the Sustainability Council by the start of 2015 for its consideration, with the aim that the Chancellor will be able to approve the final 2015 iCAP in April.

3) On an ongoing basis, you should develop and recommend specific actions or initiatives the campus should take to meet iCAP targets, and as appropriate assist iSEE and iWG with identifying units, groups, and individuals who might be well positioned to undertake those projects. Your team’s formal recommendations for actions or initiatives may be submitted at any time to the iWG using their template.
4) You should recommend information-gathering or feasibility studies that need to be performed in order to evaluate or enable sustainability objectives, and identify teams of faculty, staff, and students to undertake or guide those studies, in consultation with F&S as appropriate. Your formal recommendations for studies may also be submitted at any time to the iWG using their template.

As you are no doubt aware, under Chancellor Wise’s leadership our campus is placing a renewed emphasis on the topic of sustainability, following the results of the Visioning Future Excellence process and the creation of iSEE. In 2008, our campus signed on to the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment, and in implementing this new procedure we reaffirm our commitment to become carbon neutral as soon as possible while also serving as a model of sustainability for all universities in the nation. Thank you in advance for your efforts in helping to bring this vision to reality.

Sincerely,

Evan DeLucia
G. William Arends Professor of Integrative Biology
Director, Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment.

Sustainability Working Advisory Team on Energy Conservation and Building Standards
Brian Deal, Associate Professor of Urban and Regional Planning
Scott Willenbrock, Professor of Physics
Fred Hahn, Associate Director of Engineering Services, Facilities & Services
Karl Helmink, Associate Director of Utilities and Energy, Facilities & Services
Claire McConnell, Student Member
Dhara Patel, Student Member

Sustainability Working Advisory Team on Energy Generation, Purchasing, and Distribution
Angus Rockett, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering
Scott Willenbrock, Professor of Physics
Mike Larson, Director of Utility Production, Facilities & Services
Tim Mies, Deputy Director of Operations, Energy Farm, Energy Biosciences Institute
Drew O’Bryan, Student Member
Nathan Wells, Student Member

Sustainability Working Advisory Team on Transportation
Wojtek Chodzo-Zajko, Professor of Kinesiology and Community Health
Bumsoo Lee, Associate Professor of Urban and Regional Planning
Richard Langlois, Senior eLearning Professional, CITES
Peter Varney, Director of Transportation and Automotive Services, Facilities & Services
Grace Kyung, Student Member
Justin Licke, Student Member

Sustainability Working Advisory Team on Agriculture, Land Use, Food, and Sequestration
Bruce Branham, Professor of Crop Sciences  
Neal Merchen, Professor of Animal Sciences and Associate Dean for Research, ACES  
Dawn Aubrey, Associate Director of Housing and Dining Services  
Brett Stillwell, Architect, Capital Planning, Facilities & Services  
Alexandra He, Student Member  
Amanda Jacobs, Student Member  

Sustainability Working Advisory Team on Water and Stormwater  
Mary Pat Mattson, Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture  
Lance Schideman, Assistant Professor of Agricultural and Biological Engineering  
Keith Erickson, Associate Director of Utilities and Energy Services, Facilities & Services  
Kishore Rajagopalan, Associate Director for Applied Research, Illinois Sustainable Technology Center  
Lance Langer, Student Member  
Amy Liu, Student Member  

Sustainability Working Advisory Team on Purchasing, Waste, and Recycling  
Dilip Chhajed, Professor of Business Administration  
Warren Lavey, Adjunct Professor of Earth, Society, and Environment  
Bart Bartels, Zero Waste Coordinator, Illinois Sustainable Technology Center  
Janet Milbrandt, Director of Purchasing for the Urbana-Champaign Campus, OBFS  
Liz Shancer, Student Member  
Olivia Webb, Student Member