February 1, 2012

Michael J. Hogan, President
364 Henry Administration Building, MC-346
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Urbana, IL 61801

Re: President’s Office Contribution to Revolving Loan Fund

Dear President Hogan:

We are writing to follow up regarding a previous inquiry about the status of funds committed to the campus’ newly established Revolving Loan Fund. This letter is in reference to your commitment on May 3rd, 2011 (at a meeting between yourself, Chancellor Easter and student representatives) to provide the President’s Office funds previously allocated to the cancelled Wind Turbine project to a project selected by campus leadership and students. The Office of the Chancellor, Facilities & Services and the Student Sustainability Committee have concluded an agreement (enclosed) to allocate funding toward a campus revolving loan fund in place of the Wind Turbine project that was pursued since 2003. We request $750,000 in President’s Office funds to support this initiative.

This fund will carry out efficiency projects at the Urbana campus that will support the campus’s climate action plan, and reduce energy costs for the campus. At this time, $1,500,000 has been contributed: $1,000,000 from the Office of the Chancellor and $500,000 from the Student Sustainability Committee. Additionally, the Office of the Chancellor has committed to matching future student contributions to the fund, and we hope that your office will also consider future financial contributions.

The committee tasked with managing the revolving loan fund has identified $2,250,000 in projects to fund this year—$1,500,000 in T-12 to T-8 fluorescent lighting retrofits, $250,000 in LED exit sign lighting replacements and $500,000 in occupancy sensor retrofits. All of the above projects will be eligible for state energy efficiency rebate funding and have paybacks of less than five years. The lighting retrofit has been mostly funded, but the other projects remain outstanding, and many other worthy projects exist, including around $250,000 of steam repairs at the main library. The funds from your office will be utilized to support this set of worthy projects. Please note that this set of projects adds up to less than half of the anticipated cost of the cancelled Wind Turbine project.

The Student Sustainability Committee is pleased to be working with Facilities & Services and the Office of the Chancellor to achieve the shared goal of increasing energy efficiency on campus. We are hoping to make an official announcement about these collaborated efforts in time for Earth Day 2012. We hope to hear about your decision before the Earth Day announcement. Thank you in advance for helping to make our university more sustainable.

Sincerely,

Marika Nell
Committee Chair
On behalf of the Student Sustainability Committee

Enclosure (1)

CC: Phyllis Wise, Chancellor, Urbana-Champaign Campus
 Pradeep Khanna, Associate Chancellor and Interim Director, Office of Sustainability

 Mike Bass, Senior Associate Vice President, Office of Business and Financial Services