

President's Commission on Carbon Neutrality

Commission Meeting #10 10/25

25 October 2019 /1:30 PM/ NORTH CONFERENCE ROOM, GRAHAM

ATTENDEES

In Person:

Liz Barry, Andy Berki, Steve Forrest, Austin Glass, Drew Horning, Jonathan Overpeck, Barry Rabe, Missy Stults, Logan Vear.

By Phone (for part or all of the meeting):

Jennifer Haverkamp, Greg Keoleian, Lisa Wozniak

Regrets:

Hank Baier, Anthony Denton, Brandon Hofmeister, Larissa Larsen, Camilo Serna, Anna Stefanopoulou

NOTES

External Engagement Events

The Commission co-chairs, Steve Forrest and Jennifer Haverkamp, spoke at UM Dearborn on October 18 as a part of the University of Michigan-Dearborn's Strategic Planning Thought Leader Series. The co-chairs presented on the scientific urgency, universities' actions on carbon neutrality, and a general overview of the Commission and its progress so far to Dearborn administrators, faculty and students. The talk concluded with around 30 minutes of Q&A. UM Dearborn communications published an article about the visit [here](#).

The co-chairs are working with the Chancellor of the Flint campus to hold an informational meeting with Flint faculty and students on the PCCN and its progress.

On October 21 and 22, several PCCN commissioners and affiliates served as judges for a Ross Business School (Zell-Lurie Institute) business pitch competition focused on carbon neutrality, and Co-chair Haverkamp delivered the event's keynote on the work of the PCCN. As part of the core curriculum, all (~600) BBA juniors were charged with coming up with entrepreneurial solutions to address carbon neutrality in the areas of building standards, energy consumption, transportation, and university dining.

The Commission also discussed the best way to bring external carbon neutrality leaders to campus to benefit both the Commission's work, the internal analysis teams, and the broader UM community.

The university will be working with the City of Ann Arbor to organize town-gown engagements focused on carbon neutrality at a city-wide level, as a part of its recent commitment to joining UC3, and in recognition that the university is a significant part of the local community.

The city is kicking off a series of events focused on carbon neutrality on November 13, which includes a public session from 5:30 - 7pm at Cobblestone Farm. Register [here](#).

Heat and Power Infrastructure External Analysis

The Commission has selected [Integral Group](#) to evaluate potential pathways for evolving UM's heating and power generation infrastructure toward carbon neutrality. Four of Integral Group's team members visited the UM Ann Arbor campus on October 24. The group toured the power generation plants on campus and furthered their understanding of how the UM Ann Arbor campus functions. The group will also visit the UM Flint and UM Dearborn campuses throughout their analysis process.

Social Justice Sub Group

A social justice subgroup of the Commission was recently formed, led by Prof. Larissa Larsen and including a team of four students. The group will explore and work to understand social equity impacts arising from the Commission's recommendations, and how these may be addressed in the course of efforts to achieve carbon neutrality.

Faculty Advisory Panel

The PCCN's charge references a faculty advisory panel that was originally intended to create a mechanism through which faculty could contribute their specialized expertise on various topics. This role is now largely being filled via their participation on Internal Analysis Teams and Commission sub groups. However, the Commission sees value in also establishing a panel of faculty with more broadly representative perspectives and interests to provide feedback as recommendations begin to take shape. Work to define this panel's mandate and membership is underway.

Internal Analysis Teams

The PCCN Internal Analysis Teams are fully staffed and span eight different topic areas including building standards, energy consumption, commuting, university travel, food, bio sequestration, campus culture and communication, and external collaboration.

The teams include thirteen faculty members that span nine different schools and colleges across UM Ann Arbor and UM-Flint, along with forty-five students from ten different schools and colleges across UM Ann Arbor, UM-Flint and UM-Dearborn. Twenty-seven graduate students and eighteen undergraduate students comprise the eight teams. The work has begun and will finish in April 2020.

Sustainability Cultural Indicators Program (SCIP) Presentation and Discussion

John Callewaert and Bob Marans, co-PIs for the [SCIP survey](#), presented to the Commission on their work measuring sustainability awareness and behaviors at UM. Each annual survey measures a set of indicators covering awareness, behaviors, commitment and engagement. The measures relate to UM's 2012 Sustainability Goals including: travel and transportation, energy conservation, waste prevention, protecting the natural environment and sustainable foods.

The conversation focused on ways that the survey could contribute to the Commission's work and to the University's ongoing carbon neutrality efforts into the future. Based on past findings, survey respondents (students, faculty, and staff) increasingly acknowledge the importance of addressing climate change, but this sense of urgency is not yet reflected in individual behaviors across campus. The SCIP team is considering how to expand their survey to better encompass current UM priorities, like carbon neutrality, and how to reach the UM Flint and UM Dearborn communities more directly through their survey. The next iteration of the survey will go out to students in Fall 2020 and to faculty and staff in Fall 2021.

Student Advisory Panel Feedback and Discussion

A set of six concerns from members of the Student Advisory Panel were conveyed to the Commission, spanning the topics of urgency, transparency and responsiveness, past and future recommendations, expert involvement, City of Ann Arbor – UM partnership, and internal restructuring.

The Commission began a preliminary conversation regarding these concerns, with various Commissioners offering their initial thoughts and perspectives. There was insufficient time to explore these issues in depth, and the Commission will address them further at a future meeting.