

Memorandum



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To: Liz Davey
From: Willa Small Kuh
Copy: Nat Grier, Rob McKenna, Amy Nagengast, Bill Talbert, Mike Walters
Date: May 29, 2014
Re: Ideation Meeting Notes – Steering Committee

Following are our meeting notes from the April 29 meeting with the CAP Steering Committee.

Steering Committee members present: Jim Alty, Anne Baños, Michael Bernstein, Yvette Jones, and Anthony Lorino

After introductions, the consulting team made a presentation, as summarized below:

1. The presentation introduced climate action planning in general and at Tulane.
2. It described the structure of this process and the respective roles/scope for the steering committee and four working groups.
3. It described the expected metrics to be applied to this study.
4. It offered a distillation of the vision-like sentiments that the university working groups have offered by way of bringing identity and purpose to the plan. These are:
 - The University will make financially smart investments to support:
 - University GHG emissions reduction goals that extend beyond 2020 (perhaps reaching to the ACUPCC goals of carbon neutrality?)
 - Design of new buildings and renovations/ restorations that are ambitiously green
 - Plants and buildings being efficiently operated and maintained
 - Procurement practices that prioritize energy use reduction
 - The University mission of teaching, research and service applied to propel forward on University greenhouse gas emission reductions
 - Undergraduate students being guided from freshman orientation to graduation to become leaders in addressing climate change
 - Student involvement that positively impacts greening of the campuses

The committee's discussion that followed included the following:

- Financial decision-making about these investments must be a prominent consideration. The University recognizes many forms of returns-on-investments and is interested to vet decision making with full understanding of potential sources for investments and potential returns.
- The CAP planning process and document needs to carefully attend to the distinct opportunities offered by each of the two campuses.
- The University goal is ambitious: To train its students to become leaders in climate change. The CAP process needs to engage graduate students as well as undergraduates.
- The CAP process needs to be expanded to include University expertise in communication and engagement (of the entire campus population)
- The CAP process needs to employ some simple ways to describe the vision, goals, strategies and contents of the plan – making it easily accessible to the entire University community
- The ACUPCC asserts that reduced GHG emission will increase the appeal of the University to students and staff – that notion needs further consideration specific to Tulane, including

how this initiative can be used to promote the University's academic persistence and graduation rates

- Public health has a grad school practicum which could be used to engage students.
- The CAP should expand its GHG emissions metrics to include things like GHG emissions/sf and GHG emissions/student