

Commission Meeting #6 6/28

28 June 2019 /1:30 PM/ NORTH CONFERENCE ROOM, GRAHAM

ATTENDEES

Andrew Berki, Brandon Hofmeister, Andrew Horning, Austin Glass, Barry Rabe, Gregory Keoleian, Henry Baier, Jennifer Haverkamp, Lisa Wozniak, Liz Barry, Stephen Forrest,

Regrets: James Holloway, Anthony Denton, Larissa Larsen, Missy Stults, Anna Stefanopoulou, Logan Vear, Camilo Serna

Meeting began at 1:32pm

Subgroup Updates

Heat and Power Infrastructure RFP

The sub group recently met and discussed details that needed to be added to the draft RFP (e.g., timelines, deliverables, etc.). The sub group is now reviewing a revised draft and is aiming to issue a final RFP in early/mid July.

Internal Analysis Team Faculty Leads

The sub group has identified potential faculty leaders for the internal analysis teams and will begin the process of securing their commitments. The Commission decided that serving as a faculty lead need not preclude a faculty member from also serving on the faculty advisory panel. Next steps for the sub group include creating a formal charge for each internal team that adequately explains the expectations, scope of work, etc. The Commission anticipates an iterative process of engagement with and guidance of the internal analysis teams throughout the project timeline.

Carbon Accounting

The sub group recently met and preliminarily discussed a variety of key issues, such as lifecycle accounting of fuels, global warming potential time horizons for methane, etc. Next steps for the sub group will be to secure additional research assistance support and develop a good benchmark of what U-M and other universities are doing within the carbon accounting space.

Fleet Electrification

The sub group is currently working on a feasibility study identifying good routes for electric buses, a cost assessment study for en-route chargers to mitigate risks on cold-weather ranges, and identifying external funding sources to subsidize electric bus purchases.

Early Actions

The sub group is prioritizing the list of activities that have been identified as potential early actions for the Commission to recommend.

Faculty Advisory Panel

The sub group will meet in early July to consider the structure and process of the Faculty Advisory Panel. There is a strong desire to include disciplines and spaces not currently represented on the Commission (e.g., arts and humanities, economics, U-M Flint, U-M Dearborn, etc.).

Defining Scope – Initial Discussion

Emission Categories

The Commission discussed possible criteria for deciding which categories of GHG emissions should be included in U-M's accounting and goals. Commissioners were in general agreement that efforts should be taken to mitigate emissions across all relevant scopes and categories, but that their inclusion in, and timelines for, the University's carbon neutrality goals may vary based on a variety of key factors, including the ability to measure, relative GHG footprint, U-M's influence in affecting change, and the experiences of other institutions.

With Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions clearly within the Commission's charge, the discussion of categories focused largely on how to address Scope 3 emissions. It was noted that universities with GHG reduction or neutrality goals typically include emissions from commuting, university-sponsored travel, and waste disposal, and that UM has means for measuring (with relative ease though varying degrees of accuracy) these types of emissions. Emissions from general purchasing (e.g., food, equipment, supplies, etc.) could be estimated using general input/output models. A discussion of emissions related to off-campus student housing noted the opportunities to work creatively with the City of Ann Arbor as well as the challenges of measurement and question of whether such emissions fit within the GHG Protocol.

Geographic Boundaries

The Commission also held an initial discussion of which U-M properties and facilities should be included in its charge, in light of the wide range of U-M's land and building footprint that exists beyond the boundaries of U-M's primary campuses. Those properties within the boundaries of U-M Ann Arbor campus are already included in the 2025 goal, but those beyond are not. Commission members noted the GHG sequestration properties of U-M's many field stations and preserves. Leased facilities and Michigan Medicine satellite units were discussed briefly. There are many different types of leased space throughout the state, and even a few nationally and globally. Michigan Medicine also has a wide range of facilities throughout the state, some of which are wholly-owned, some that are leased, and some where U-M has affiliation agreements with other providers.

As next steps, the Commission plans to develop principles for recommending what should be included and excluded from our GHG accounting and goals, and Facilities and Operations were asked to generate a list of university properties to help determine materiality and scope.

Meeting ended at 3:30 pm