

Commission Meeting #11 11/15

15 November 2019 /1:30 PM/ NORTH CONFERENCE ROOM, GRAHAM

ATTENDEES

In Person:

Henry Baier, Liz Barry, Andrew Berki, Anthony Denton, Austin Glass, Stephen Forrest, Jennifer Haverkamp, Brandon Hofmeister, Drew Horning, Greg Keoleian, Larissa Larsen, Jonathan Overpeck, Barry Rabe, Camilo Serna, Missy Stults, Logan Vear, Lisa Wozniak

Regrets:

Valeria Bertacco, Anna Stefanopoulou

NOTES

Updates

Student Advisory Panel

The co-chairs recently met with the PCCN student representatives regarding the Student Advisory Panel concerns shared at the [October 25 Commission meeting](#). They are working to schedule a meeting with the Student Advisory Panel in the near future to discuss further.

Ross Net Impact Engagement

The co-chairs met with the student leaders of the Ross School Net Impact organization. They shared that their group (of ~70 students) is interested in exploring how business and carbon neutrality can work together to get the job done. The co-chairs and a couple analysis team faculty leads agreed to participate on a panel on this topic at a December 10th event Net Impact is organizing.

Internal Analysis Teams

The [eight internal analysis teams](#) have been working throughout the month. The first all-faculty leads meeting was held on November 8. The group plans to meet monthly to aid in collaboration and information sharing among the different teams. These meetings are open to the Commissioners to facilitate engagement between the Commission and the internal analysis teams.

UM Dearborn and UM Flint Engagement

Following the [engagement event at UM Dearborn](#) in October, the co-chairs met with the new Chancellor of UM Flint, Debasish Dutta. The three are arranging a talk at UM Flint similar to the engagement event at UM Dearborn for early in the new year.

City of Ann Arbor Carbon Neutrality

The City of Ann Arbor declared a climate emergency on November 4, and with that began their [planning process towards attaining climate neutrality by 2030](#). On November 13 the City of Ann Arbor held a Carbon Neutrality Summit which consisted of three separate meetings throughout the day, of which one was a session with partner organizations including U-M. The event included approximately 400 people, and the city plans to host another [engagement event](#) in winter 2020.

Next Phase of PCCN’s Work

A major topic of this meeting was a discussion of what the next phase of the Commission’s work would entail, and how it would help prepare the PCCN to develop recommendations once the various analyses were completed and reported back to it. Commissioners began by reviewing their timetable.

	Fall '18	Winter '19	Spring '19	Summer '19	Fall '19	Winter '20	Spring '20	Summer '20	Fall '20
President announces Commission	complete								
Online comments forum open	complete	complete	complete	complete	in process	pending	pending	pending	pending
Commission formed and work begins		complete							
Commission meetings		complete	complete	complete	in process	pending	pending	pending	pending
Community engaged sessions		complete	complete		in process	pending	pending		
Advisor consultation		complete	complete	complete	in process	pending	pending	pending	pending
Analysis Team work					in process	pending	pending		
Interim Progress Reports			complete		in process	pending	pending		
Draft final report writing								pending	pending
Public comment period and report revision									pending

complete
in process
pending

The co-chairs then introduced the work plans for the coming months that will be the focus of the meetings in spring until fall. They are outlined below.

Phase One

(Feb '19 – Nov '19)

- Define the many dimensions of the challenge, and develop a structure and work plan to effectively address them
- Engage community members to educate them on the PCCN charge and to get their ideas for informing the work scope
- Secure the expertise needed to carry out robust analyses across multiple geographies and subject areas, and get that work underway
- Establish a shared baseline for understanding key issues among all commissioners, which will be critical when deliberations take place later in the PCCN process
- Draft and deliver interim progress report

Phase Two

(Nov '19 – May '20)

- Continue establishing a shared baseline for understanding key issues among all commissioners]
- Advise the many analysis teams and begin digesting the options and recommendations emerging from the various work streams
- Engage experts and key stakeholders in informing the various work streams
- Begin better defining terms embedded in the charge as they relate to each aspect of the challenge
- Draft and deliver interim progress report

Phase Three

(May '20 – Dec '20)

- Engage key stakeholders to better understand the impacts of potential recommendations emerging from the PCCN’s work
- Deliberate and develop recommendations to be included in the draft final report
- Draft final report and issue for public comment
- Make necessary revisions and deliver final report to President Schlissel by the end of the Fall semester

Commissioners discussed how, during the Commission's second phase, they will begin to engage U-M administration leadership on how some of the potential recommendations could impact current business models and structures of the University. Beginning this process well in advance will provide a foundational level for considering implementation issues more expeditiously once the PCCN submits its recommendations.

Commission Meeting Process

The Commission will increase the cadence of its meetings in 2020, seeking to meet every 2 weeks for 90 minutes each.

The co-chairs will distribute a list of key "level-setting" topics which the Commission still needs to explore in upcoming meetings, and will seek commissioner input regarding additions to the list. Subject area experts will be invited to join these meetings to inform the conversation.

There was a brief conversation around the Commission's decision-making process, a topic the Commission will return to in future meetings.

The commissioners were given a final opportunity to comment on the PCCN fall interim progress report during the weekend immediately following the meeting. The interim progress report is posted [here](#).

Interim Actions

Commissioners shared views on what would make a potential interim action a "no brainer", and how to evaluate when an interim action made sense to pursue. This was part of a longer discussion regarding the PCCN's role relative to University actions currently underway or in active planning, including construction projects like the new Clinical Inpatient Tower (CIT). Concerns were raised about the potentially high costs of waiting to retrofit such buildings for carbon neutrality down the road, along with the potentially high financial and social costs of pausing construction or reopening design processes. The Commission will work to gain a deeper understanding of carbon neutral building design, including through the work of the building standards internal analysis team and the Integral Group's external heat and power analysis.

The Commission is also considering identifying a set of case studies, in addition to its current workstreams, to examine ways of decarbonizing different types of UM buildings. An outstanding question is whether such case studies should be undertaken in the near future or later, when they could be used to help evaluate specific options and recommendations from the analysis teams.

Integral Group Progress Report

Commissioners received an update on the external heat and power infrastructure analysis being performed by [Integral Group](#). Integral Group is looking at the entire heat and power infrastructure for UM Ann Arbor, Dearborn and Flint, including individual building boiler systems, the North Campus Research Center (NCRC), Central Energy Plant, and the Central Campus Power Plant (CPP). Integral Group is looking into geofield technology, along with other types of technologies (e.g., biogas, carbon capture), to determine what would best meet UM's needs. Members of the PCCN hosted the Integral Group team for a kickoff meeting on October 24. Since then, a team of UM Office of Campus Sustainability staff has been providing key data and information to Integral Group to help them begin the work.

The external analysis work necessitates 2 phases:

- **Phase 1** will consist of the group evaluating the technology options, analyzing the data and determining the best combination of technologies to transition UM's heat and power infrastructure towards carbon neutrality. Their initial analyses and recommendations will be presented to the Commission in early 2020.
- **Phase 2** will include exploring and quantifying the implications of selected recommendations. Integral group will quantify the costs, disruptions to campus life and work, etc. Some more specific case studies could potentially emerge from this phase. The final analysis results will be delivered to the Commission in April of 2020.

There was also discussion about learning from the experiences of institutions that may have already implemented some of the technologies that Integral Group is evaluating for U-M's adoption. One such example would be the [geothermal heating and cooling system installed at Ball State University in 2012.](#)