**University Senate Document 11-15**
**19 March 2012**
**As Amended**

**TO: The University Senate**
**FROM: University Senate Resources Policy Committee**
**SUBJECT: Committee for Sustainability Planning and Assessment**
**DISPOSITION: University Senate for Discussion**

WHEREAS, the Purdue University Board of Trustees authorized the completion of a Comprehensive Energy Master Plan (CEMP) to look at the production, distribution, and demand of the campus going forward to meet the university's energy needs through 2035, and

WHEREAS, Purdue received a cumulative grade of "B-" on the 2011 College Sustainability Report Card, which evaluates the progress universities have made in the area of sustainability based on information provided by university administrators[1], and

WHEREAS, Purdue has been ranked 8th in the Big Ten for sustainability, falling behind universities such as Michigan State University, University of Michigan, Pennsylvania State, University of Minnesota, University of Wisconsin-Madison and Indiana University, which all performed better than Purdue in the Sustainability Report Card rankings, and

WHEREAS, data from the Office of Sustainability indicates that Purdue's total campus energy usage has increased year after year and will continue to do so[2], and

WHEREAS, Michigan State University, an institution of comparable size and energy demands as Purdue and current home to the largest coal-burning plant on a college campus, has formed a taskforce made up of students and faculty to develop that university's "Energy Transition Plan" with a goal to have 40% of energy come from renewable sources by 2030[3], and

WHEREAS, the Purdue University Sustainability Strategic Plan, adopted in April 2010, established a goal to "source renewable energy for 10 percent of the campus's total energy demand" by 2025[4], but concrete, university-wide objectives have not been set to achieve this goal, and

WHEREAS, the University Resources Policy Committee of the University Senate is concerned with "planning optimal utilization of the physical facilities of the University, including buildings, the library, scientific and equipment and educational aids" and has subcommittees including Architectural and Landscape Design and Planning and Budget Interpretation, Evaluation and Review, and

---

[1] Sustainable Endowments Institute (2011), "College Sustainability Report Card - Purdue University," found at http://www.greenreportcard.org/report-card-2011/schools/purdue-university

[2] Energy Stewardship (2010). Purdue University: Electricity Multiyear comparison, http://www.purdue.edu/sustainability/energy.htm

[3] Energy Transition Plan (2012). Michigan State University: http://president.msu.edu/energy-transition-plan/energy-transition-plan.pdf

[4] Purdue University (2010), Sustainability Strategic Plan, http://www.purdue.edu/sustainability/pdf/Purdue_University_Sustainability_Strategic_Plan_April_2010.pdf

WHEREAS, this committee has the opportunity to engage stakeholders across the university in setting goals for the sustainability future of Purdue and evaluate institutional progress in achieving these goals, and

WHEREAS, progress towards greater utilization of alternative and renewable sources of energy would provide opportunities to utilize the campus as a "living laboratory" to evaluate new energy technologies and energy saving strategies, producing innovative research in the growing field of energy systems and policy and providing possibilities for new coursework and student experiences in these areas, and

WHEREAS, such a commitment will benefit Purdue's long-term sustainability, economic wellbeing, and prestige as well as advance the objectives of the *Innovative Purdue* section of the Decadal Funding Plan[5] and thus contribute to the economic prosperity of the State of Indiana;

THEREFORE, be it RECOMMENDED by the Purdue University Senate Resources Policy Committee that Purdue University Senate establish a new committee with the following parameters:

A. The committee shall report to the University Resources Policy Committee (URPC).
B. The committee shall be composed of representatives of the student body as appointed by Purdue Student Government; one graduate student as appointed by the Purdue Graduate Student Government; one member of the faculty and one student from each Purdue Regional Campus; members of the Purdue faculty as appointed by the University Senate Nominating Committee; one member of the clerical staff as appointed by the Clerical and Service Staff Advisory Committee; and one member of the Administrative and Professional Staff as appointed by the Administrative and Professional Staff Advisory Committee. Membership will have a maximum of 28 members with no less than 8 student members and two faculty members from URPC.
C. The purpose of the committee shall be to set five-year goals to advance the sustainability of the university, guided by Purdue University's Sustainability Strategic Plan including but not limited to reducing overall energy consumption and transitioning to greater utilization of clean and renewable sources of energy, determine measurable objectives for achieving these goals, and evaluate progress in meeting the objectives.
D. Recommendations developed by the committee shall include a comparative economic analysis including life cycle cost including cost of capital, operations, maintenance and integration into the existing grid and distribution systems.
E. The committee shall submit a report of its findings to the University Senate at least one time each academic year.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Purdue University Resources Policy Committee.

[5] Purdue University, Decadal Funding Plan, http://www.purdue.edu/provost/documents/Senate-DecadalUpdate-23Jan12.pdf

Paul Schwab
Chair, University Resources Policy Committee
Purdue University Senate

| Approving: | Disapproving: | Absent: |
| --- | --- | --- |
| M. Fosmire | | W. Cui |
| J. Grutzner | | A. Diaz |
| W. Hoover | | G. Friedman |
| R. Johnson-Sheehan | | N. King |
| E. Kvam | | M. Levy |
| D. Nelson | | R. Logsdon |
| P. Schwab | | J. Rust |
| L. Sherman | | |
| K. Stantz | | |
| M. Trout | | |