



To: Business Board

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Agenda Item: 7

**Item Identification: University Environmental Protection Policy: Revision**

**Jurisdictional Information:**

The Business Board is responsible for policies concerning the management of buildings and grounds and the execution of capital projects Terms of Reference 5.2(b) and 5.3(b).

**Previous Action Taken:**

The Business Board approved the University Environmental Protection Policy (UEPP) on March 7, 1994. The policy has not been revised since it was originally approved.

**Highlights:**

The UEPP was created to provide a framework for reducing the university's negative impact on the environment. With guidance from an Environmental Protection Advisory Committee (EPAC) consisting of stakeholders across the university, Facilities & Services (F&S) was identified as the primary unit responsible for implementing the policy.

Since approval of the original policy document in 1994, the UEPP remains unchanged despite several significant changes to university operations that have an impact on the implementation of the policy.

Environmental issues have become more complex and pervasive and now encompass much more than waste and toxics, moving outside the mandate of the Waste Management Department, who were identified as the primary executor of the original policy. The revised policy does not specify a single unit as responsible for the issue, but includes the whole university community in the solution. While F&S will continue to serve the central role in reducing the environmental impact of the University, Sustainability Offices were created to coordinate sustainability initiatives that go beyond the purview of F&S. and link the academic mission of the University to the issue. Green committees and similar groups are being established at faculties and departments and among students prompting more grassroots initiatives across campus.

Though never officially dissolved, EPAC stopped meeting as of 2006 and was effectively replaced by a new Sustainability Board, reflecting the interests of all three campuses and diverse parties in the broad issue of sustainability at the university.

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The proposed revision is streamlined to allow for more sophisticated and creative solutions that involve relevant stakeholders and the sharing of responsibilities. Language has also been revised to emphasize the university's commitment to protecting the environment through meeting, and where reasonably possible, exceeding performance legislation as dictated by government regulations. Procedural guidelines will be developed to describe the specifics related to the implementation of this policy across the areas affected.

**Financial and / or planning implications:**

The revised policy retains the intent of the original statement, but is streamlined to account for the ever evolving nature of minimizing the university's environmental impact.

**Recommendation:**

THAT the proposed revised University Environmental Protection Policy (attached) be approved, replacing the Policy approved by the Business Board on March 7, 1994.