2014

Sustainable UMass ADQUAD External Review Final Presentation

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Sustainable UMass
ADQUAD/AQUAD Review

Bonny Bentzin
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Agenda

• Findings Presentation: 20 minutes
• Clarification Questions: 10 minutes
• Group Discussion: 30 minutes
• Next Steps: 20 minutes
Current Successes

• Early leadership from pioneers across a broad departmental spectrum.
• Investment in strengthening core campus facilities.
• Extensive student and cross-departmental involvement.
• A campus culture which values experiential learning.
• Flagship undergraduate sustainability programs, and interdepartmental sustainability graduate program.
• Leading nationally:
  – Eco-Rep program
  – Library services
  – Food systems research, permaculture, dining
Key Observations

• The current standing of Sustainable UMass as a national leader in sustainability is in jeopardy.
  – No unified institution-wide vision for sustainability.
  – Limited administrative structure to oversee and implement a sustainability action plan.
  – Limited investments in administrative and program staff, as well as vehicles for convening.
  – Not resourced for developing and managing foundational, long-term programs.
Key Observations

• Team shows fatigue from holding together a broad cross-campus coalition in the absence of adequate formal organizational structures.
• Many staff are waiting for a signal from senior leadership to engage more fully.
• Senior campus leaders are supportive but not actively engaged in driving goal setting.
Key Observations

• Significant gaps in present operational practices:
  – Renewable energy
  – Solid waste
  – Procurement
  – Integrated building design process

• Academic gaps: Ph.D.-level research degree program, and broader integration across the colleges.
Recommendations

• Sustainable UMass needs a central organizing platform – *Institute for Sustainability Integration*
  – Reports to Chancellor, Deputy Chancellor or Provost.
  – Coordinates the interaction and advancement of the academic and operational sustainability programs.
  – 3-5 year campus-wide action plan for sustainability.

• Comprehensively integrate sustainability more thoroughly into current strategic planning work.

• Establish a set of sustainability metrics to help drive resource allocation.
Recommendations

• Adopt bold near-term GHG reduction targets, take a comprehensive approach to energy and solid waste management.
• Integrate sustainability-related responsibilities into all job descriptions and/or personnel evaluations; beginning at the senior level.
• Showcase the existing suite of strong academic offerings.
• Invest in new programs to maintain leadership in the national academic sustainability conversation.
Questions and Clarifications
Where does this leave you with your ADQUAD/AQUAD action plan?
What are your next steps?