

**University Faculty Senate
Meeting**

May 13, 2009

AGENDA

- Call to Order by Speaker Steven Beer
- Report from Nominations and Elections Committee: Brad Anton (3 minutes)
- Report from Senior Vice Provost Bob Buhrman on New Developments Concerning Conflict of Interest (10 minutes)
- Resolution from the EPC to Remove the Public Availability of Mean Course Grades: D. Gries (25 minutes)
- Approval of Minutes of the March 11, 2009 Senate Meeting (2 minutes)
- Report from President's Climate Commitment Committee: Tim Fahey (25 minutes)
- Report from Dean of Faculty: Bill Fry (5 minutes)
- Good and Welfare (20 minutes)

**REPORT FROM NOMINATIONS
& ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

Brad Anton

May 13, 2009

REPORT FROM NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Faculty Advisory Board on Information Technologies

- Thomas Bruce, Law (reappointment)
- Paul Ginsparg, A&S (reappointment)

Institutional Review Board for Human Participants

- Gary Evans, CHE (reappointment)
- Jeffrey Hancock, CALS
- Elaine Wethington, CHE (reappointment)

Assemblies

Campus Planning Committee

- Patricia Pollak, CHE (reappointment)

Dining Services Committee

- David Levitsky, CALS (reappointment)

University Sustainability Committee

- Martin Hatch, A&S

**REPORT FROM SENIOR VICE
PRESIDENT BOB BUHRMAN ON
NEW DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING
CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Bob Buhrman

May 13, 2009



Financial Conflicts of Interest and Research

Bob Buhrman

Senior Vice Provost for Research

May 13, 2009

Research Compliance

- A substantial and **required** administrative burden on Cornell researchers and on the institution.
- Broad and growing spectrum of regulatory areas
 - 40+ sets of regulations and compliance areas of major concern to sponsored research (3 new in 2008: sub-award reporting (700), Homeland Security e-Verify, and “training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research”)
- Areas of current concern and greatest impact on researchers
 - Effort reporting and certification
 - Research Integrity and Assurance (ORIA)
 - Export Control (*144 cases in 2008, none in 2005*)
 - Animal Care and Use (*776 active protocols, 150% increase since 2005*)
 - 114 facilities, AAALAC re-accreditation process on track, 2009
 - Biosafety (*288 active protocols, 58% increase since 2005*)
 - Human Participants (*1497 active protocols, 200% increase since 2005*)
 - **Financial Conflicts of Interest** (FCOI) (*all lead investigators*)

Financial Conflicts of Interest

- Identification, management, and appropriate disclosure of FCOIs is essential for ensuring the public trust of research institutions and for continued access to federal funding.
 - Real conflicts, and situations where a neutral observer might reasonably conclude a conflict exists (apparent conflict)
 - *Must properly **report and manage** all real and apparent conflicts*
- Research-related FCOI the subject of significant, and growing, federal scrutiny and public attention.
 - Senator Grassley's inquiries to NIH and NY Times articles on same
 - AAMC/AAU report on FCOI and research (clinical and non-clinical)
 - Many leading universities updating FCOI policies - e.g. Columbia
http://evpr.columbia.edu/files_sponsoredprojectprocedures/imce_shared/COI_Policy_4_3_09_new.pdf
 - NIH mail reviews of universities' FCOI policies
 - NIH soliciting comments regarding a planned revision of its FCOI regulations - May 8, 2009

Financial Conflicts of Interest - Cornell

- Research-related FCOI covered by overall Cornell Conflicts Policy
www.policy.cornell.edu/Conflicts_Policy.cfm
Adopted May 31, 1986. Amended January 29, 1987;
October 29, 1992 (established University Conflicts Committee);
October 28, 2000 (annual electronic disclosure process established)
- The University encourages academic personnel, consistent with university policy, to engage in sponsored research, to participate in professional practice as appropriate and necessary to sustaining intellectual output, to consult widely, and to engage in entrepreneurial and other activities that may benefit not only the participants but also the university and the larger public. The academic community at Cornell strives toward these objectives in a context of freedom with responsibility. Cornell's conflicts policy recognizes and affirms the settled tradition and expectation that members will conduct their relationships with each other and the University with candor and integrity. ...Cornell does not require individuals to avoid all situations where there may be a seeming or potential conflict of interest. On the contrary, some types of conflicts are unavoidable and completely acceptable. ...The obligation to disclose external financial interests and time commitments stems from the public trust vested in a University, is required by the Cornell University Conflicts Policy, and fulfills legal reporting requirements to funding agencies. (preamble to Part I disclosure)
- Recent NSF and NIH audit findings indicate that Cornell is not in full compliance with federal FCOI regulations.

Financial Conflicts of Interest - Cornell

- Cornell is currently reviewing and updating Cornell policy and procedures for **research-related FCOI**.
 - Internal Ithaca process
 - OVPR; **University Conflicts Committee**, Dean Bill Fry (co-Chair);
 - Counsel's Office; Audit Office
 - President's Task Force on FCOI: Charge: "Recommend working principles and best practices"
 - Bill Fry, Trustees, Ithaca and Weill administrators, David Hajjar (Weill co-chair) and Bob Buhrman (co-chair)
- Expected result: A research-related FCOI policy and procedures for Faculty and Administration review, and subsequent Board of Trustees review and approval in the coming year.
 - **Cornell Policy on Financial Conflicts of Interest and Research**
 - Supplement to overall Conflicts Policy

Impact on Cornell Faculty

- If have no research-related financial interests or external relationships
 - *no impact*
- If have research-related financial interests and commitments
 - Improved reporting process
 - annually and at time of proposal submittal (modified Form 10)
 - objective is to assist and better guide faculty in proper FCOI reporting
 - Central, confidential, oversight of development and implementation of FCOI management plans
 - goal is not to eliminate relationships but to manage them appropriately
 - Meet requirements of federal regulations
 - Assure public trust in the integrity of Cornell research

**REPORT FROM THE EPC TO
REMOVE THE PUBLIC AVAILABILITY
OF MEAN COURSE GRADES**

David Gries

May 13, 2009

Motion to remove median grades from public view

April 1996: Senate voted to put median grades on transcript and to publish them, perhaps electronically, each semester

April 2006: Senate rejects Prof. Ann Lemley's proposal to remove median grades from the web

September 2007: Talia Bar^{*}, Vrinda Kadiyali⁺, and Asaf Zussman^{*} publish

Quest for Knowledge and Pursuit of Grades:
Information, Course Selection, and Grade Inflation

* Dept of Economics

+ Johnson School of Management

Previous studies:

1991. 376 students at Williams College, 1985-86.

Decline in grade decreases probability of taking a second course in same department

2000. 2528 students at Florida State, 1991-93.

Grading policies influence students' subsequent course selection

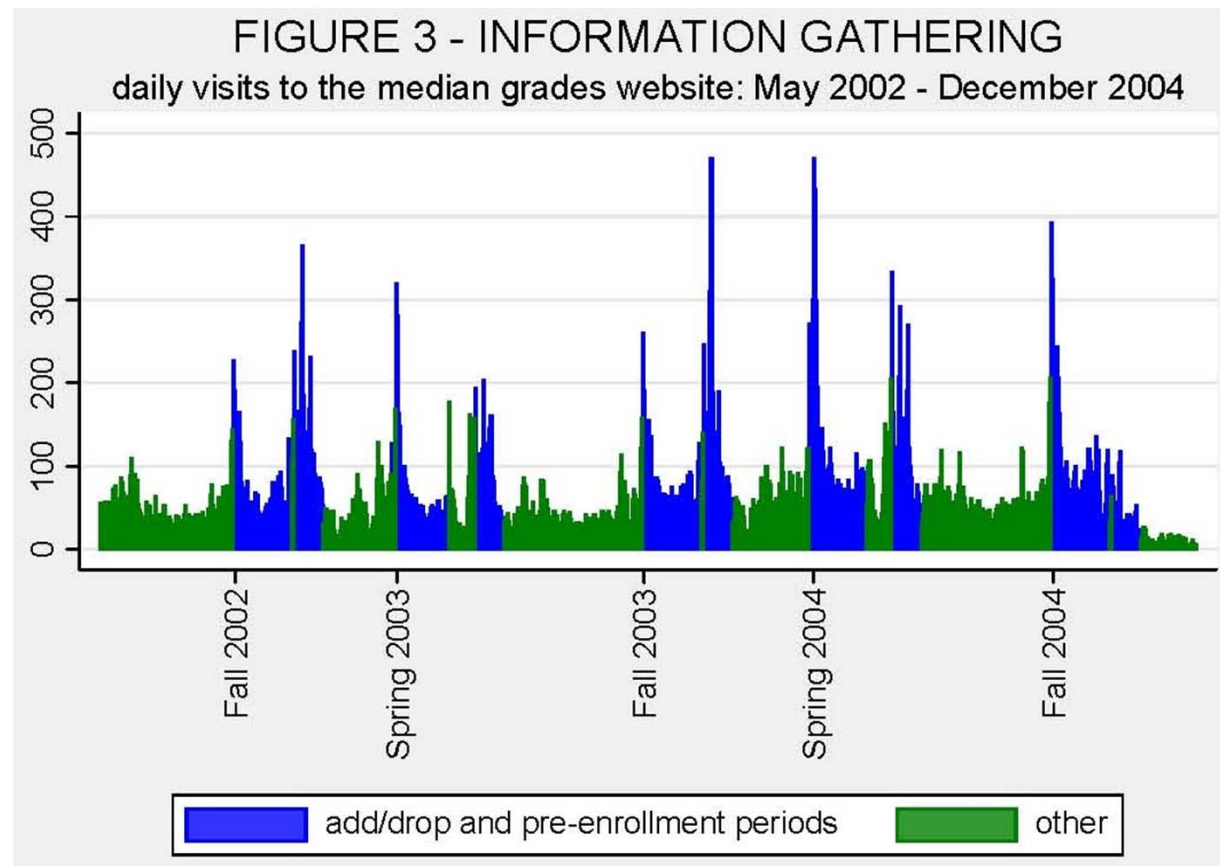
2003. several hundred students at Duke, 1998-99.

Students tend to choose offered by instructors who grade leniently

Cornell study:

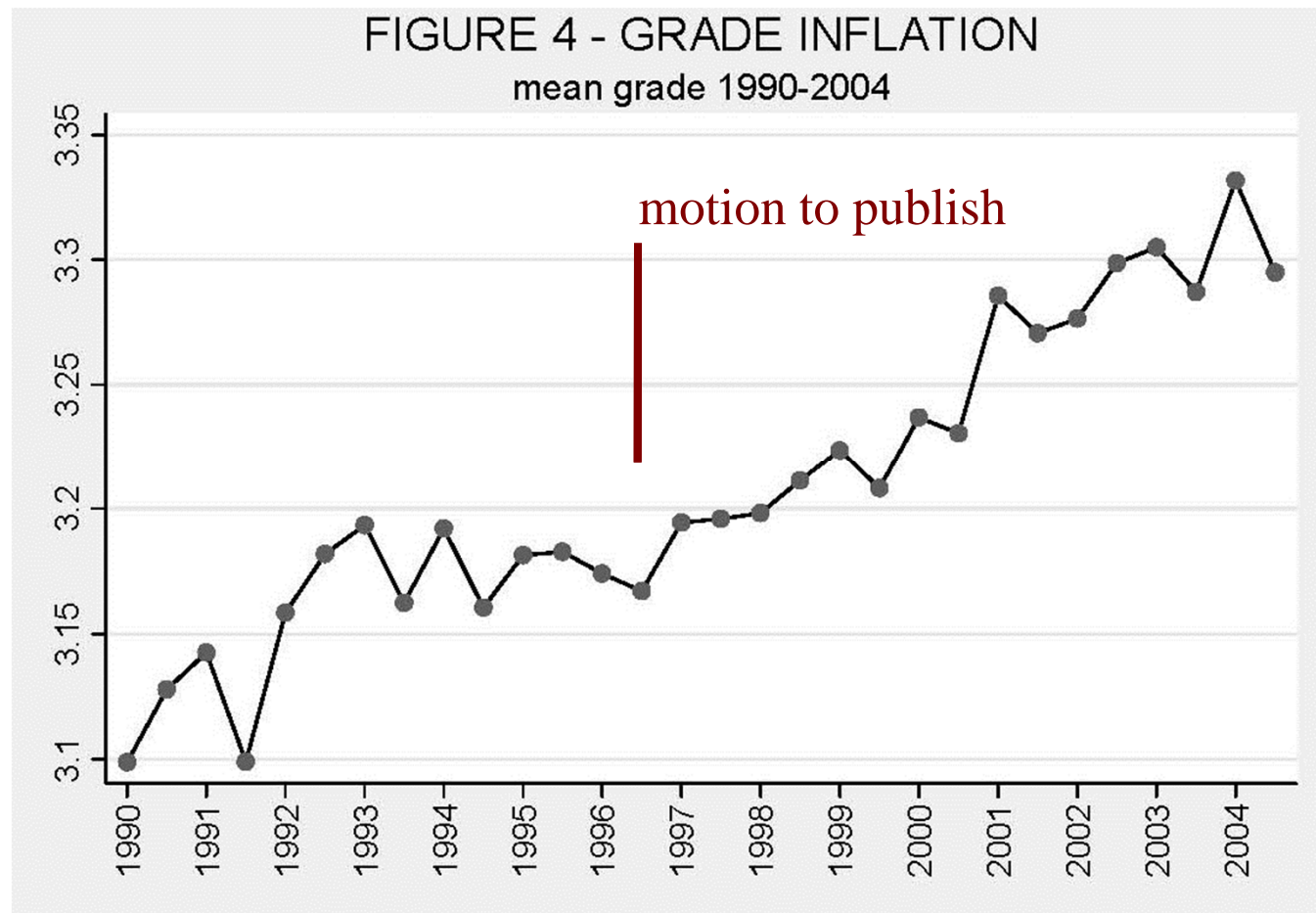
- All students taking Cornell A&S courses, 1990-2004
- Study of student behavior under different information levels (before/after median grades available)
- Use SAT scores to study which students will be more attracted to leniently graded courses

- **Students take median grades into consideration** **Findings:**
- Students tend to be drawn to leniently graded courses.
- **Most talented students are less drawn to leniently graded courses**



Cornell study: “grade-driven course selection is likely to have had a large influence”

About 1/3 of grade increase due to increase in quality of students



WHEREAS the process of listing the median grade for each course on a student's transcript has begun, and,

WHEREAS public publishing of the median grades for all courses on the Cornell website is used by students to select courses that give high grades, and,

WHEREAS this practice is contributing to grade inflation at Cornell,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that Cornell will cease the public publishing of median grades of Cornell courses (thus removing them from the Cornell website), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that median grades of Cornell courses continue to be recorded by the Registrar and made available to persons with need to know (Deans, Department Chairs, etc, and persons needing the data for scholarly research, with decisions to be made by the appropriate Dean).

**REPORT FROM PRESIDENT'S
CLIMATE COMMITMENT
COMMITTEE**

Tim Fahey

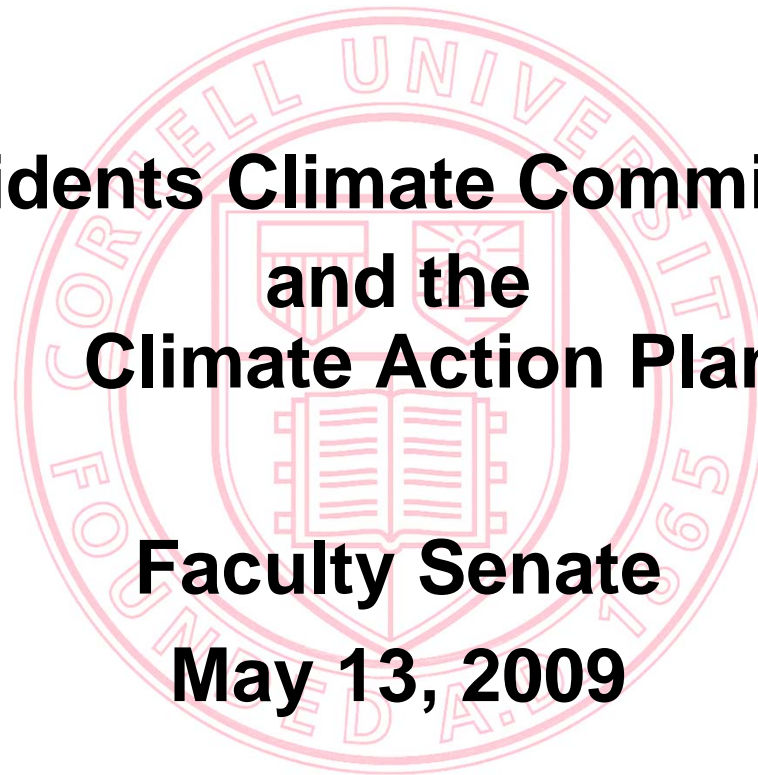
May 13, 2009

Presidents Climate Commitment Implementation Committee

**Presidents Climate Commitment
and the
Climate Action Plan**

Faculty Senate

May 13, 2009



Presidents Climate Commitment

“develop and implement a plan with specific targets and timelines to achieve climate neutrality at a pace and in a manner that maximizes the opportunities for the university”

- From American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment 2007 Annual Report

Deadline: September 15, 2009

The Climate Action Plan: A Framework

1. Inventory emissions and create Base Case (accounting for future campus growth)
2. Gather ideas – over 700 in database
3. Create the Decision Tool
4. Develop the Options
 - Short , Intermediate and Long-Term
 - Demand & Supply Side
 - Technology & Behavior
5. Select endorsed alternatives and create portfolio

GHG Inventory Summary

4 required Inventory Components for the PCC



On-site Fossil Fuels

Heating over 14 million Gross Square Feet
176,000 metric tons (55%)



Purchased Electricity

Over 230 million kwh
87,000 metric tons (27%)



Commuting

Over 3 million gallons of gasoline
29,000 metric tons (9%)



Air Travel

Over 40 million miles
27,000 metric tons (8%)



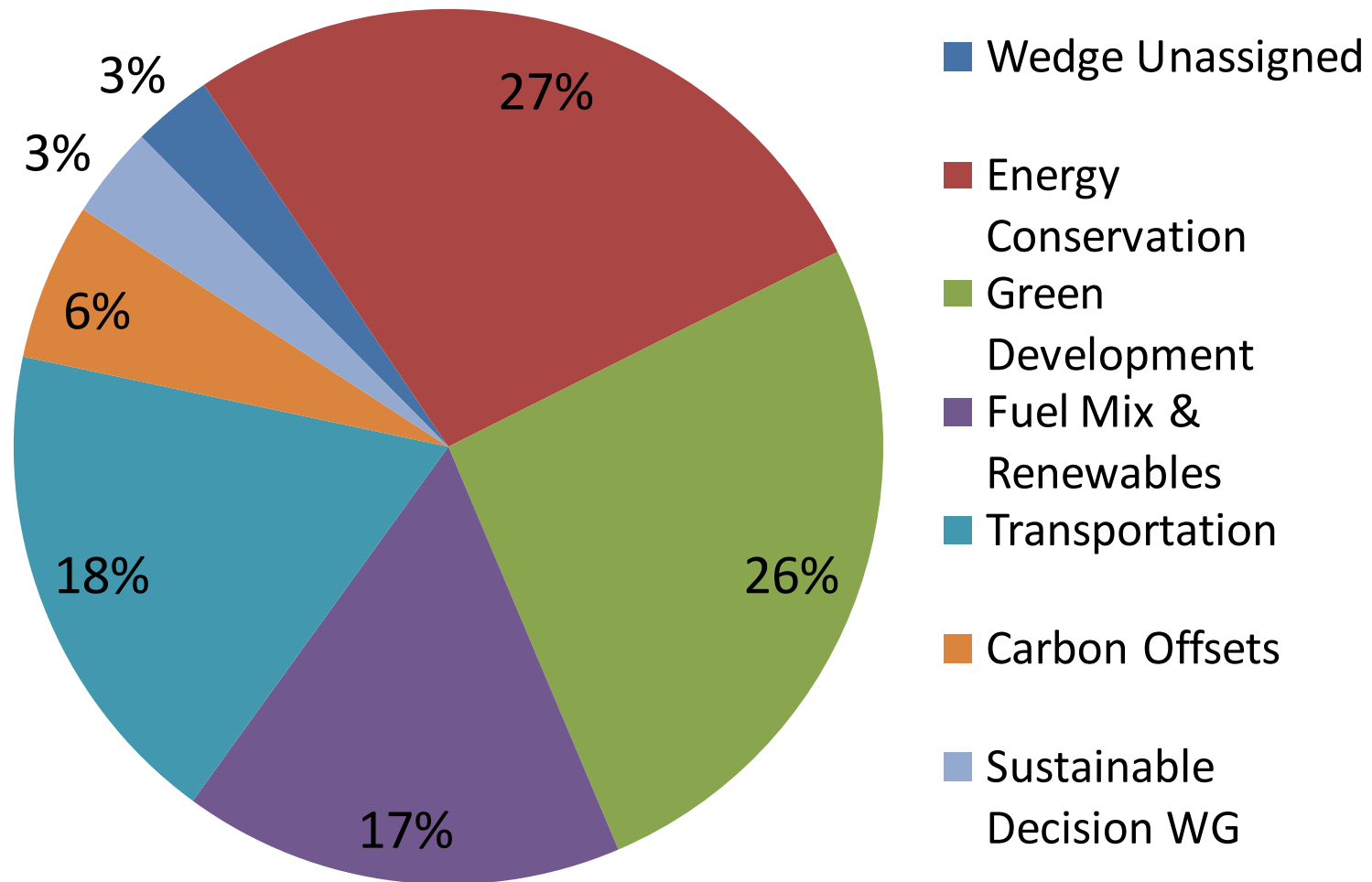
Total Footprint: 319,000 metric tons CO₂

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Involvement

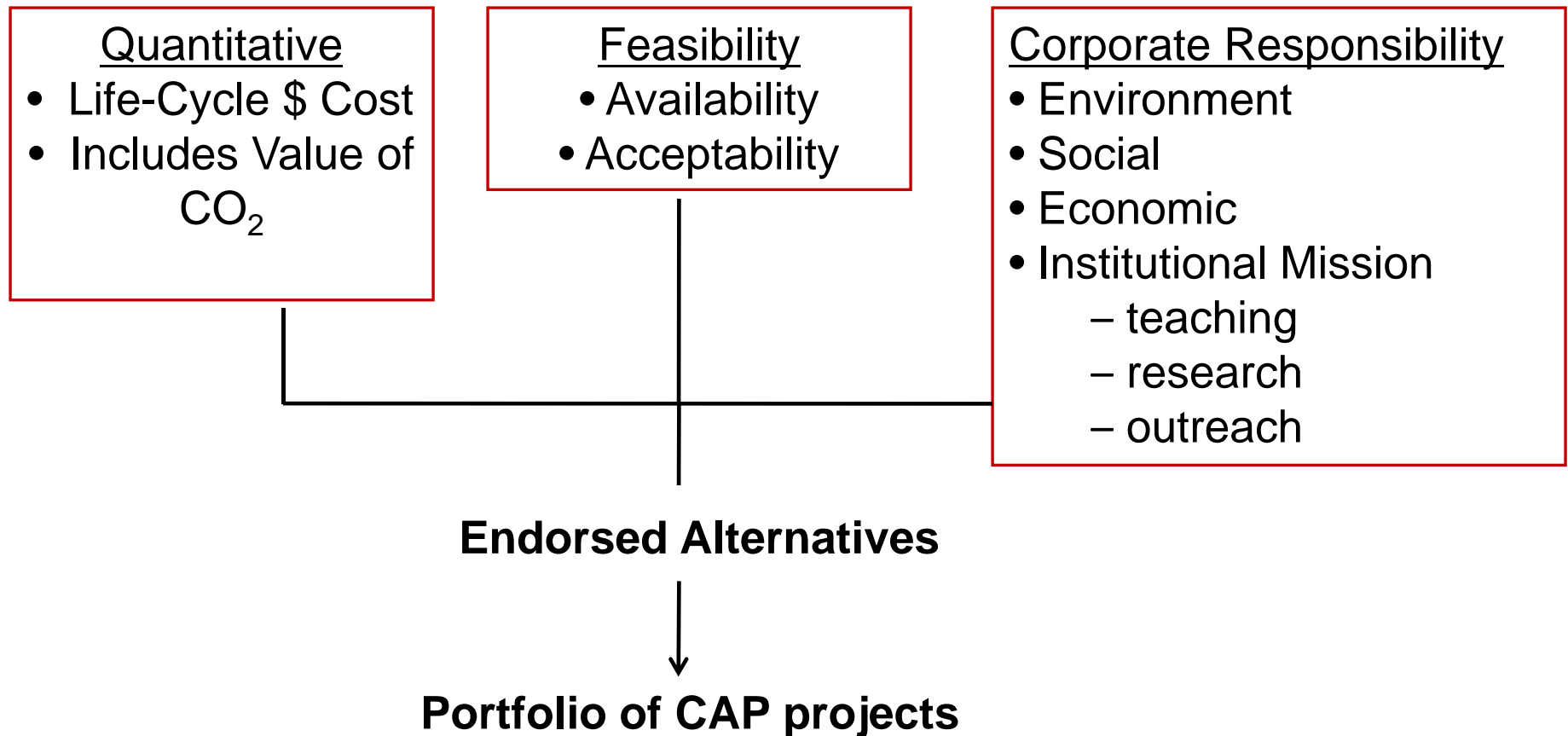
706 Ideas from Faculty, Staff, Students, and Community



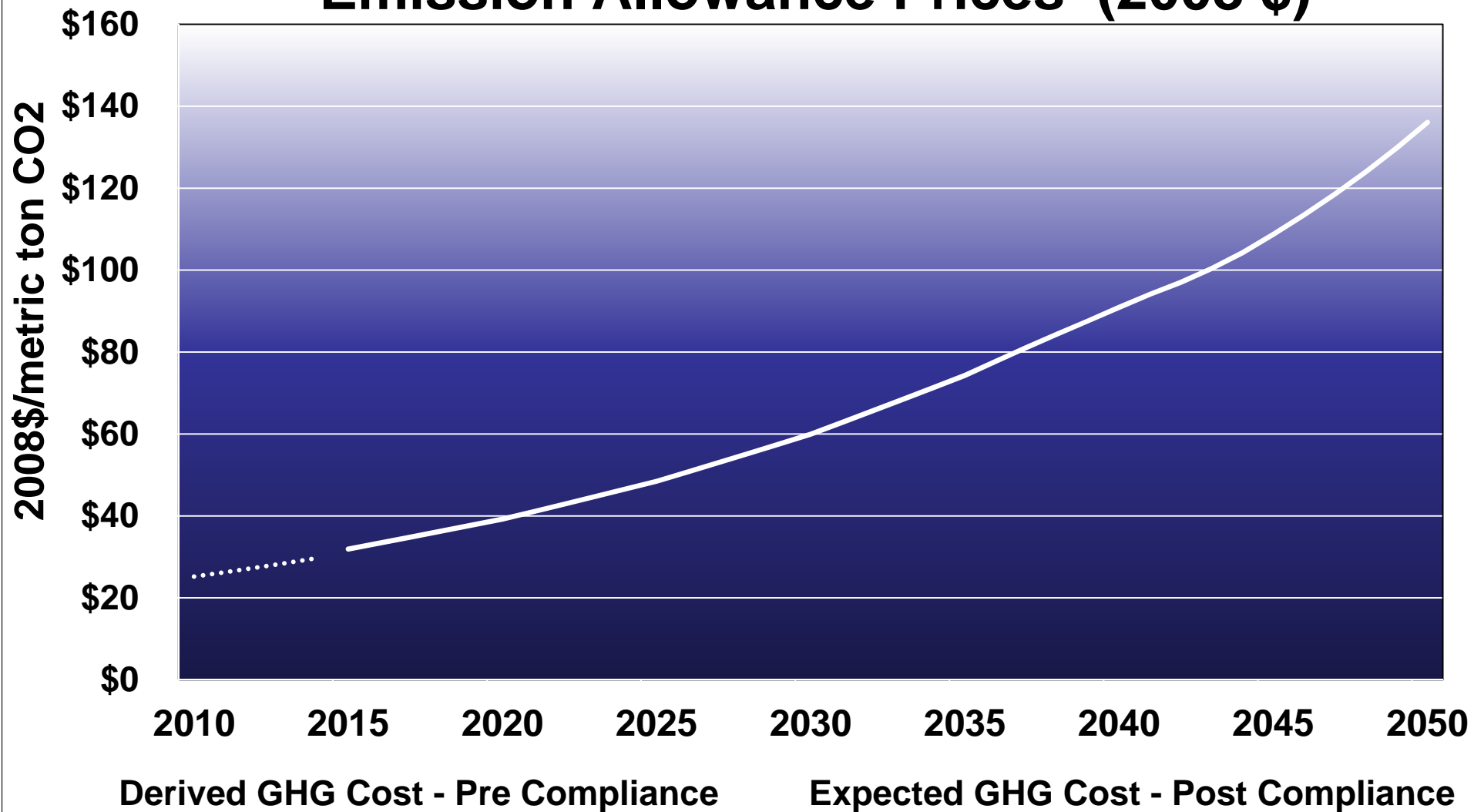
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Sustainable Decision Analysis For Climate Action Alternatives



Expected Forecast of Greenhouse Gas Emission Allowance Prices (2008 \$)



The Climate Action Plan: A Framework

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What will be in the Recommended Portfolio?

- Actions that support essential **Teaching and Research Priorities**
- Actions that support our **Outreach Mission**
- Actions that show leadership **compatible with existing priorities** (campus greening, TIMS, Master Plan)
- Actions that **save \$\$ and reduce risk** associated with future energy prices and carbon taxes

Presidents Climate Commitment: Education, Research and Outreach Opportunities

Make climate neutrality and sustainability a part of the curriculum and other educational experience for all students

Expand research or other efforts necessary to achieve climate neutrality

Greenhouse Gas Abatement

Demand for Energy *Avoid and Reduce Energy Used for Buildings and Vehicles*

Supply of Energy *Replace Fuels with Low/No Carbon Sources*

Offset or Recover Emissions

Energy Use / Person
Sq. ft / Person

Energy Use / Sq. ft

Focus on People, Practices, and Policies

Focus on Physical Systems and Technology

Renewable Energy

Substitute Fuels and Improve Equipment

Transportation Fuels

Create Community Offset Program

Purchase Mission-Linked Offsets

Carbon Capture and Sequestration

- Facility User Behaviors
- Space Planning Space Use
- Flexible Work Arrangements
- Land Use & Vehicle Miles Traveled
- Commuter Travel
- Business Travel

- Energy Use Intensity Standards for NEW and RENOVATED Labs, Offices, Classrooms, Residences, and Mixed Use Bldgs
- Whole Building Retrofits
- Improve Building Envelope
- Low-Energy Equipment
- Efficient Lighting Systems
- Campus Fleet: Fuel Efficiency

- Cornell Univ Biofuels Institute (CURBI)*
- Biomass Combustion
- Biomass Gasification
- Anaerobic Digestion
- Slow Pyrolysis With Biochar
- Large Scale Wind
- Solar Thermal and PV
- Enhanced Geothermal System Demonstration*
- Geothermal Heating
- Geothermal Power

- Co-Fire Wood in Solid Fuel Boilers
- Early Switch to Natural Gas Boilers
- Central Plant Upgrades
- Upgrade Existing Hydroelectric Plant
- Move Towards All-Electric Campus
- Smart Grid
- Landfill Gas @ Geneva

- Vehicle Alternate Fuel Stations
- Campus Fleet: Fuel Choice

Fuel Mix & Renewables

Transportation

Green Development

Energy Conservation

DEAN OF FACULTY REPORT

Bill Fry

May 13, 2009

Reaccreditation process (preparation) has started
6 teams

Search for vp for undergrad education (D. Harris, chair)
N&E suggested faculty members
(internal search)

Search for VP for Budget and Planning
(candidates to interview with FPC)

Executive VP position (refill?? current evaluation)

Strategic planning process:

College Task Forces

15% reduction

consider reconfiguration

consultative

Cross Disciplinary Task Forces

Life Sciences (S. Kresovich)

Social Sciences (D. Harris)

Mgmt/Business (R. Sieber)

Student-related Task Forces

Enrollment (D. Harris, S. Murphy)

Student and Academic Affairs (in evolution)

Administration-

Charges being finalized, to be on the web.

(admin budget cut > schools/colleges)

- i. Budget Process: Co-chaired by Paul Streeter and Cathy Dove (membership will include representation from the FPC).
- ii. Facilities
- iii. IT
- iv. General Adm (including Finance, HR,etc)
- v. Risk Management

Consulting firm

(to aid with efficiencies in administration)

Much happening.