

Financial Affairs Advisory Committee (FAAC) NOTES for 4/16/26 Meeting

Meeting information:

Members present: Stefanie Russman Block, Bobby Hewlett (interim EVP and CFO), Becky Peterson (Chair), Sara Soderstrom, Dale Thomson, Jefferson Williams

Members absent: Julie Boland, Vance Jackson, Emily Luxon, Silvia Pedraza, Hsiao Sung, Kentaro Toyama (SACUA)

Guests present: Shana Weber, Associate Vice President for Campus Sustainability

Faculty Senate Office staff present: Meaghan Blanchard

Notes:

12:45: Updates from Interim EVP Hewlett

Summary: Interim Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Bobby Hewlett thanks the committee for a very productive and collaborative year. He thanks Chair Peterson for her leadership.

Interim EVP Hewlett acknowledges the tragic news of President-Elect Syverud's diagnosis. He and the committee send their condolences to President-Elect Syverud and his family and thank President Domenico Grasso for his continued leadership.

The significant weather event on April 14th, 2026, resulted in damage to Yost Arena and other athletics facilities. Power was temporarily out at several university facilities, but all were supported with generators until power was restored. Interim EVP Hewlett has conducted a survey to ensure that the Ann Arbor campus is safe, and he believes that all issues that occurred due to the weather storm were quickly remediated. Interim EVP Hewlett praises Kim Kiernan and the facilities team for their swift and efficient response.

A committee member asks about the weather event's impact on Wolverine Village. Interim EVP Hewlett notes that no clear damage from the weather incident was found, and they are currently on track to finish up the facility by July 31st. Interim EVP Hewlett acknowledges that there are other potential factors that could delay its completion, so July 31st is a tentative deadline.

Action: Discussion

1:00: Presentation from Shana Weber on Campus Sustainability

Summary: Associate Vice President of Campus Sustainability, Shana Weber, gives the committee an update on the work of [Planet Blue](#) and the Office of the Campus Sustainability and Innovation.

The Office of Campus Sustainability and Innovation have created a number of initiatives to

deliver long-term impact through institutional objectives, such as their work on making the University of Michigan carbon neutral by 2050 and working towards a 50% waste diversion rate by 2030.

The Office of Campus Sustainability and Innovation is also developing a stronger U-M energy infrastructure through electrification, geo-exchange, on-campus solar, and other community benefits.

Their team has also developed, and continues to develop, initiatives that reduce waste, foster research initiatives, communicate the work of their team, and foster campus as a living learning lab where students, faculty, and staff can test sustainability solutions across university systems.

A committee member asks if the university's waste management initiatives also account for Michigan Medicine. AVP Weber notes that their metrics do include everything from the Ann Arbor Medical campus, but the metrics do not include the East Ann Arbor or West Ann Arbor facilities, nor distributed facilities elsewhere in the state. AVP Weber also notes that Michigan Medicine has several independent initiatives they are executing to address waste management.

A committee member asks if AVP Weber's team publishes an annual report with updates on the progress of their various initiatives. AVP confirms that an annual report is published to the Planet Blue website.

A committee member asks about plans for 600 geothermal boreholes in Palmer field and how it will be impacted by the capital committee and presidential transition. AVP Weber acknowledges that plans have been delayed, but both AVP Weber and interim EVP Hewlett continue to advocate that these investments are in the best interest of the institution.

A committee member asks how the planned high-performance computing facility built in collaboration with Los Alamos will reconcile with their sustainability goals. AVP Weber notes that this lab is a research facility. It is not the same as a commercial data center. Construction of the facility has to comply with U-M requirements. She has already accounted for U-M's part of the energy footprint in their energy planning. U-M is not accounting for Los Alamos' part of the energy footprint. She notes that the project is still being scoped and has not yet gone through the capital process. A committee member expresses concern over how information about the facility has been shared with the U-M community. AVP Weber notes that her team is working hard to improve communications and support students who organized a town hall on this project to get accurate information out.

A committee member asks if there are plans to expand the university composting program to all University of Michigan offices and facilities, including the East and West Ann Arbor Medical campuses. AVP Weber shares that her team continues to work to expand this program.

AVP Weber shares that her team is happy to assist with small-scale sustainability initiatives that faculty propose. Her team can evaluate specific issues and potentially provide support via the [Revolving Energy Fund](#). She notes that these funds are available to all three campuses.

2:00: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Meaghan Blanchard
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Faculty Senate Office