



June 13, 2011

Re: University of Calgary – Sustainability as an Institutional Priority

To Whom It May Concern:

To enhance the foundation for a comprehensive approach to sustainability, the University of Calgary has firmly embedded sustainability in institutional governance and planning processes as follows:

1. The University of Calgary Sustainability Policy was passed in April 2009. It states, “The University of Calgary is committed to excellence and leadership in advancing the pursuit of Sustainability in teaching, research, campus operations and community service.”

The policy confirms the principles and accountabilities that will govern how the University of Calgary acts upon this commitment; and provides the authority to the President and Vice Presidents to approve supporting policies for research, teaching, community service and campus operations.

2. Sustainability is identified as one of four 2010-2011 institutional priorities by the University of Calgary Executive Leadership Team, comprised of the President and Vice-Presidents, committing the university to “demonstrate excellence and leadership in the pursuit of sustainability initiatives (social, economic and environmental).”
3. In 2011, the University of Calgary launched a multi-month institution-wide strategic planning process involving the consultation of thousands of students, faculty, staff and community stakeholders. The result of this process is the draft 2011 Strategy Summary document which identifies sustainability as one of 7 core values to the institution. It states, “We value sustainable ways of living and working, which includes balanced budgets, positive social relationships and the health of the planet that we all call home. We take care of the physical and natural environment.”
4. The Institutional Sustainability Plan (ISP) is a new framework for advancing and acting upon the university’s commitment to sustainability. The plan, which is largely aligned with STARS, provides a holistic and strategic approach to campus sustainability including Planning & Administration, Learning & Research, and Campus Operations.

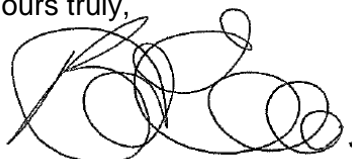
The ISP includes goals, performance indicators, multi-year targets, and provides an initial set of key actions in more than 17 areas. It also defines accountabilities for each vice president.

Passed by the Board of Governors in April 2011 following extensive stakeholder input and reviews, the Institutional Sustainability Plan is now one of the suite of institutional governance documents shaping academic and business planning.

5. The Comprehensive Business Plan, undertaken on a 3-year rolling basis, now requires all academic and business units to include a sustainability progress section in their annual plan and refers units to the Institutional Sustainability Plan for guidance on institutional priorities and portfolio accountabilities.

By embedding sustainability as a core value within institutional governance and planning processes the University of Calgary is demonstrating best practices in planning & administration and is publicly reinforcing its commitment to sustainability. For this I present this initiative for a STARS Innovation Credit.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Ellard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bob Ellard SOM, AAA, FRAIC  
Vice President (Facilities Management and Development)

cc: Joanne Perdue,  
Director of Sustainability, Office of Sustainability