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RE: SUSTAINABLE LIVING/LEARNING TASKFORCE

Dear Colleagues:

We are writing to ask for your participation in the development of a proposal for a Sustainable Living/Learning Community at UC Davis. We want to create a shared vision for a new community that will value the student cooperative residential experience, be strongly connected to the related academic teaching and research programs, be based on a sound business plan for financial and organizational stability, and employ innovations in sustainable living systems that are now available.

There are many stakeholders in this enterprise. We hope to involve as many of these stakeholders as possible in our discussions. We envision a planning process where all points of views are honored to develop a comprehensive approach that includes environmental, social, and financial sustainability. Many of today's living environments rely on technology to 'design people out' of participation with their surroundings and the systems that sustain them. In this project, we hope, with your help, to 'design people in' to a living community and the systems that sustain it.

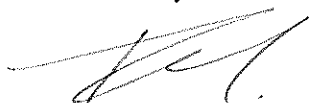
One of the important factors we hope to capture in this process is to 'right-size' the scale of the community based on a variety of factors.

We envision a process that will investigate the following issues, among others, and bring them together into a comprehensive plan:

- 1) Community scale: What are the goals for a community with participatory decision making? How does the size and number of people in the community affect these goals? What are the pros and cons of different sizes? Can multiple modules of these smaller scale communities be 'scaled up' to help with the financial and environmental sustainability goals?
- 2) Location: What are the relationships between the built environment and land-based resources? Are there opportunities for 'brown-field' redevelopment sites as opposed to 'green-field' sites that will displace viable agricultural land?
- 3) Systems scale: What are the optimal sizes and characteristics of living environments that will create food, energy, water, and waste management systems that function effectively and enable meaningful student participation? How can we balance 'hands-on' participation with the ever-increasing health and safety demands of 2010?
- 4) Financial sustainability: What financial and management options should we explore that will promote financial health for residents and the university?

We look forward to developing a plan that will help all stakeholders achieve their goals and result in a new living environment that will be a place of pride for student residents and the university. It is our hope that this group can meet regularly to develop this plan and you will be contacted soon to schedule the first meeting.

Thank you in advance for your efforts,



Fred Wood
Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs



John Meyer
Vice Chancellor,
Administrative and Resource Management

/kml

c: Emily Galindo