



## Outcomes of the 2007 Meeting of IARU Senior Officers

### Campus Sustainability

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#### 2 Identifying appropriate sustainability measures (metrics)

The meeting agreed that IARU should develop a sustainability index based around models developed by Yale and Cambridge. This will recognise that member universities are at different stages in the development of campus sustainability measures and that it is not to be seen as a commitment to doing everything right now. We will be looking for an approach that incorporates flexibility and allows universities to do things differently. ANU and Yale will circulate a survey for completion by 31 January 2008.

#### 3 Comparing Ecologically Sustainable Design (ESD) building standards in IARU member countries to identify common elements

The meeting agreed that IARU members should use national best practice ESD standards, where they exist, in the construction of all University buildings or major refurbishments. Where standards do not exist, for example in the construction of laboratory buildings, IARU should establish a process for exchanging information that would lead to best practice design.

#### 4 Developing a (global) standard – integrating metrics, building guidelines, and sustainability principles, for IARU

It was agreed that IARU should develop environmental targets particularly in the areas of greenhouse emissions reduction, water conservation and waste management. These targets, while having a genuine impact on reducing our environmental footprint, would also take into account the various stages of development of each University, what environmental initiatives have already been undertaken and any projected growth.

The issue of baselines was discussed, particularly in the context of several universities not having historical data to construct 1990 or even 2005 baselines. It was agreed that IARU targets might best be based on a 2008 baseline, while member universities could, at the same time, have their own targets based on earlier baselines.

The mix of priorities at each university will be different – eg water conservation is not an issue at some universities. It was agreed that each member would establish a hierarchy of environmental impacts and focus on those most important to it.

It was agreed that while considerable research had been completed on the current environmental management arrangements in place at our respective universities, it was clear that further work would be needed to finalise a set of meaningful targets for consideration. A draft paper will be prepared by ANU and Yale and circulated by 31 January 2008.

## **5 Integrating education and campus management in the context of campus sustainability**

The meeting noted the paper prepared by ANU and agreed that linking campus sustainability initiatives to members' education curricula would add an extra dimension to the campus sustainability agenda.

## **6 Interns for sustainable campuses – proposed exchange program**

The meeting agreed that an exchange program between sustainability offices at IARU institutions should be established. This would be for both staff and students. A paper detailing the proposal which would include information on the financial implications will be distributed before the April 2008 meeting.

## **7 General discussion on the process leading up to the meeting of IARU Presidents at Yale in April 2008**

The meeting placed great emphasis on the importance of each member having a clearly identified person, with the weight and authority to make things happen, to act as the liaison point for the development of these proposals. The issue of the need to shift some resources to make these initiatives work was noted as being very important. IARU Presidents will consider the papers at their meeting in April. A statement on the IARU's initiatives around campus sustainability should be prepared as an outcome of the April meeting.