

# **Proposal Regarding Relocation of East Campus Facilities to the Wooded Hillock and Procedures, Policies, and Standards for Future Campus Development**

## **Presented to the Senate Executive Committee Meeting**

**September 3, 2009**

### **Background**

On March 20, 2009, the campus was informed that 9 acres of a 22.4 acre campus site known as Wooded Hillock that is heavily forested with sloped topography would be the relocation site for East Campus location physical plant facilities.

June 6, 2009, a letter on behalf of concerned faculty and students was sent to the University Senate to request that a moratorium be placed on the development of the relocation site and that the University Senate study and make recommendations regarding campus development.

### **Major Issues**

1. The development of the Wooded Hillock conflicts with the University's Facilities Master Plan (2001), its update (2007), the University Strategic Plan (2007-2008) as well as the current draft University Climate Action Plan (2009).
2. The academic (teaching and research) value of Wooded Hillock was not considered in the selection choice.
3. UM should at least meet but preferably exceed the spirit of the State of Maryland's laws, regulations, and policies for sustainable forests and land development. Loss of the continuity provided by the Wooded Hillock between preserved natural areas along the East and West Branches of the Patuxent will cause loss of biodiversity, a problem that the University exacerbated by the clearance of woodland on the golf course.
4. The subcommittee charged with the site selection did not include faculty representation involved only one student. In addition, the number one criterion for site selection was cost. There is a need for broader input in determining major changes in the campus landscape and facilities.

### **Requests**

1. Do not overturn the recommendations in the Facilities Master Plan that identifies forested lands including the Wooded Hillock to be protected and preserved (<http://www.facilities.umd.edu/Masterplan/Figures/figure3.jpg>).
2. Before taking any further action towards relocating the East Campus Facilities, implement a comprehensive assessment of the future campus facility needs for the service units located on the East Campus or use the recommendations of a Landscape Master Plan ([http://www.facilities.umd.edu/Masterplan/FMP\\_v13.pdf](http://www.facilities.umd.edu/Masterplan/FMP_v13.pdf), sec1:2). Also, incorporate the goals of the Climate Action Plan (upon approval) and coordinate with the newly created Campus Sustainability Council. Once future needs are identified, then sites other than the Wooded Hillock should be considered for construction of required facilities. Impacts of the relocation of facilities and their impact on campus

- should be thoroughly reviewed by a committee that includes faculty, student, and staff, making use of the expertise in the university in this field.
3. Consider the potential of developing the Wooded Hillock as an Environmental Education and Research Forest at the University of Maryland.
  4. Appoint a Blue Ribbon Taskforce charged by the President to review the current status and administrative relationships of making decisions related to environmental concerns. The Taskforce would make recommendations for optimizing and integrating environmental decisions into the fiber of campus decisions. The Taskforce should be chaired by a distinguished academician, administrator, and environmental scientist and be **external** to the UM campus. The taskforce should be diverse and also include respected members from outside the University.