

From: UIUC Chancellor (UIUC Admin)
Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2006 1:27 AM
To: All Faculty & All Academic Professionals & All Civil Service Staff
& All Undergrad Students & All Grad Students
Subject: MASSMAIL - Reducing Energy Costs on the Urbana Campus

DATE: November 8, 2006
TO: Faculty, Staff and Students
FROM: Chancellor Richard Herman
SUBJECT: Reducing Energy Costs on the Urbana Campus

I am writing to ask for your help in addressing an important issue our campus community faces. Over the last five years the Urbana-Champaign campus has realized an unprecedented increase in utility costs. This adverse financial impact in utilities was accompanied by new or deepening cost pressures in nearly every area of campus operations. Today utility costs are now one of the largest components of the non-discretionary annual costs that negatively impact salary programs, tuition rates, and program expansion plans.

President White recently appointed an Energy Task Force of faculty and administrators from UIC, UIUC, UIS, and University Administration to:

1) examine the factors impacting energy costs on all University of Illinois campuses; and 2) make recommendations to minimize energy costs in the future. The Task Force is co-chaired by UIUC Provost Linda Katehi and UIC Provost Michael Tanner, and is expected to submit a preliminary report in March 2007 and a final report in May 2007.

While the Task Force findings and recommendations are critical to our longer-term energy picture, we need not wait for their final report to begin moving toward greater energy responsibility. Regardless of our eventual energy procurement or management strategies, the campus will always benefit from reducing consumption. Responsible conservation pays benefits both immediately and for the long term. It is a universally prudent approach to diminish the spiraling costs of energy consumption that reduce funds available for our primary missions.

In light of these energy issues, I am forming a Campus Energy Conservation Committee to: 1) develop a clear campus policy for energy use and conservation; and 2) help identify areas of energy cost avoidance on the Urbana campus. I have asked Terry Ruprecht to serve in a new role of Director of Energy Conservation for the Urbana campus. He will work with colleges, departments, and Facilities and Services to structure conservation efforts and ensure that we begin to reduce campus energy use.

In addition to the above actions, I request that all faculty, students, and staff take personal responsibility in reducing energy use wherever possible. Individual efforts may seem small at first glance, but they add up significantly across a campus

the size of ours. All members of our campus community can assist by:

- Turning out lights in unoccupied spaces and during unoccupied periods
- Lowering thermostat settings a few degrees in the winter
- Raising thermostat settings a few degrees during the summer air-conditioning season
- Assuring that all lights, computers, monitors, copiers, and other equipment are shut off for weekends unless specifically needed
- Helping achieve reduced operating hours of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems wherever practical
- Reporting wasteful practices or unnecessary use of energy to Facilities and Services

These kinds of voluntary efforts at other large universities have resulted in a measurable decrease in energy consumption. Michigan State has seen initial drops in consumption of 4 to 8 percent on a similar request of their campus community.

Thank you for your cooperation in this important effort. Not only will our entire campus community benefit from this increased attentiveness, but will help preserve the environment and precious natural resources.

This mailing approved by:
The Office of the Chancellor