

The Environmental Council co-chairs, Michael Arciero, Neal Jandreau, and Noah Perlut, met with President Ripich on February 20, 2012 for two hours to discuss the 2011 work by the council as well as future work. The following is a brief summary of our meeting.

- We talked about Bill McKibben's visit to campus and lessons learned. President Ripich, responding to her meeting with Mr. McKibben, stated, "I have become a true believer." She expressed clear appreciation for the need and expedience of sustainability on campus(s).
- Following the discussion about Mr. McKibben, we talked about costs and benefits of LEED certification (and the success of Sokokis and the pharmacy building attaining higher than expected rankings), agreeing that in fact there are notable costs and benefits to certification. President Ripich suggested that UNE establish sustainable growth standards for building projects.
- In relation to the sustainable growth standards, we talked about how to pay for these measures. One idea mentioned briefly was a revolving green loan program.
- We talked about successes of sustainability projects, including the LED lights. She expressed concern that these lights were not being used in the Alford Forum, and also suggested that we can still try to increase sustainability on the President's House (perhaps with solar or hot water panels). She gave examples (flooring, decorations) of how sustainable and natural materials already planned for the building.
- President Ripich expressed clear enthusiasm for the inclusion of major speakers in the Center for Global Humanities lecture series over the last two years (McKibben and Dr. William Cronin). She strongly encouraged a continued presence of sustainability in this series.
- We reviewed the broadly successful work to replace water coolers with tankless-coolers across campus. President Ripich was enthusiastic about this work and requested one for her hallway outside her Portland office. She reviewed the water resolution and offered to bring this agreement to the University Council.
- President Ripich expressed strong concern for resolving transportation issues on the Portland Campus, and as a related note, excitement for the forthcoming river ferry pilot project in Biddeford.
- We discussed the soon to be acquired 19 acre parcel on Bishop Street. The ultimate use and form of this property is unknown.
- We discussed the river lot on the Biddeford campus. President Ripich expressed her strong desire to have this be a focal meeting and activity place for the campus—rather than a parking lot—although the exact form is still unknown. She also expressed notable concern for the apparent overuse of the dirt parking lot next to Decary.