



Memorandum

To: Ronald M. Berkman, President
From: Geoffrey S. Mearns, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Date: March 14, 2011
Re: Recycling and Waste Management

G. Mearns

I submit this memorandum on behalf of the budget advisory task force as part of the task force's ongoing responsibility to provide recommendations as to how the University should prepare for the possible reduction in state support for higher education.

In connection with the task force's consultation with the University community, the task force received a suggestion that the University develop a recycling and waste management plan as part of a comprehensive strategy to reduce operational costs. The task force discussed this suggestion, and the task force believes the suggestion has merit.

On behalf of the task force, Professor Ashutosh Dixit and others prepared a brief memorandum describing the possible elements and the potential benefits of such a plan. (This memorandum is attached.) The potential benefits include operational cost savings for the University, as well as many other non-financial benefits. The task force was pleased to learn that some activities are presently underway at our University.

The task force has concluded, however, that these activities could be more robust and coordinated. Therefore, the task force recommends that you direct the responsible individuals, including the Vice President for Business Affairs and Finance and the Sustainability Coordinator, to develop a specific sustainability plan for the University.