



University of Houston

Division of Administration and Finance

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## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Draft University Sustainability Policy Unveiled for Earth Day**

The Campus Sustainability Task Force announced the completion of its draft university policy on campus sustainability as part of the university's Earth Day celebration today.

“In a world that is going GREEN it is important that we as a premier institution of higher learning not only follow suit but take on an active leadership role in this movement, said Kenneth Fomunung, president of the Student Government Association. “I think this Sustainability Task Force is a great opportunity for us to ensure that our environmental and energy policies are green oriented and sustainable in the long term.”

This policy, completed over the course of this academic year, addresses the framework for sustainability at the university, describes the guidelines that will be used by the Task Force, and outlines the Task Force composition and appointment terms for the Task Force members. The Task Force, composed of students, faculty and staff meet at least monthly during the academic year to discuss campus sustainability.

“We are excited to make this announcement on Earth Day, the day that the campus and the world are focusing on green initiatives,” said Emily Messa, assistant vice president for university services and coordinator for the Task Force. “This policy represents for us the beginning of the university's commitment to being green. We have high expectations as a Task Force and recognize that there is a lot of work to be done and that we can't do it alone. We'll ask a lot of ourselves and the campus community.”

This policy will be part of the formal campus policy review, which will begin in May. At the University, policy reviews are conducted online and the community is invited to review and provide comments on prospective policies. Following the four-to-six-week review, policies are formally signed by the administration and then posted on the web. The Campus Sustainability Policy will also begin a new section of policies, all devoted to sustainability issues at the University. The draft policy can be viewed at <http://www.uh.edu/green>.

“I think this is a great document that clearly reflects the collaborative spirit of this endeavor; it is truly a university wide effort to make this our campus more sustainable,” said Sam Dike, former Student Government Association President and Task Force member.