



June 24, 2009

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE
VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

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Dear colleagues,

I'm pleased to announce ten new faculty positions for "cluster hiring" to advance research, education, and outreach on sustainability. President Mason has identified sustainability as an area of strategic emphasis. The Faculty Senate has passed a resolution asking the University to incorporate sustainability in the University's mission.

A campus-wide competitive award process resulted in a winning proposal for new interdisciplinary appointments—five funded by the Office of the Provost (with start-up costs) and five matched by the participating colleges—that will focus on "sustainable water":

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

1. Water Resources
2. Ground Water
3. Water Chemistry
4. Reporting and Public Awareness of Water Sustainability

Graduate College and Public Policy Center

5. Resource Economics

College of Law

6. Resource Regulation

College of Engineering

7. Environmental Remediation
8. Industrial Ecology

College of Public Health

9. Rural Health and Water
10. Water Sustainability and Environmental Health

This "cluster" of new faculty, together with current faculty members, will form an intellectual community led by a senior faculty member (to be appointed). A University-wide committee of faculty will participate in the national search for these new hires, together with members of the hiring departments. An external Advisory Board comprised of leading academic, business, and public leaders on water-related issues is being formed.

Even in tight economic times, top-ranked research universities move forward by making focused investments in academic excellence. A critical mass of new faculty in water sustainability will reinforce The University of Iowa's assets in sustainability:

- the new Iowa Flood Center, created with a \$1.3M legislative appropriation;
- academic strengths in cognate areas of sustainable energy and clean air;
- the new UI Office of Sustainability, to promote a green campus;
- the new undergraduate certificate program in sustainability, designed by a campus-wide faculty committee.

Thank you to the faculty members and collegiate deans who created this initiative for national excellence in water sustainability.

Sincerely,

Wallace D. Loh