

Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2009

Location: Physical Plant Conference Room
Presiding: Dave Lococo, Kathleen Smythe
Present: George Farnsworth, Dave Lococo, Annette Marksberry, Mary Rosenfeldt, Greg Schaber, Kathleen Smythe

General

- Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.
- Minutes from 6/8/09 meeting approved with no changes
- Daun Seitz was unable to attend due to vacation. We will welcome her at the next meeting.
- Last month's meeting did not get through the agenda so this month's agenda is extended.

Sustainability Day – October 27th, 2009

Details about Sustainability Day are in the July meeting information distributed with the agenda. There is a schedule included. The budget has been received by Kandi Stinson and is under review. The current budget estimate is \$10,000. The question was asked if we have an idea of what Kandi will be able to provide. Kathleen has been talking to Kandi about it and the only line item in question is the speaker's fee. Chartwell's has done Earth Spirit Rising so there is confidence that they can provide the food for this event.

Kathleen and Dave need to follow up with Father Graham to discuss his speech for sustainability day.

The transportation subcommittee met with Maggie Ridder on a potential sustainability ride share page. The goal is to get it up and running prior to Sustainability Day. Maggie has been on vacation the last two weeks so Greg will follow up with her upon her return.

Subcommittee reports

Energy and Infrastructure: Dave has had some difficulty contacting Thermaltech, the consultant selected to assist with the analysis but was successful last week. A proposal will be received within the week. Also, Physical Plant is negotiating a new contract for electrical energy on behalf of the University. The preferred provider is First Energy. This company utilizes nuclear energy to generate electricity so our carbon footprint should go down based on this. Dave will have to go back to the carbon footprint spreadsheet to determine the impact. The group discussed the ramifications of the energy being generated from nuclear power. The suggestion was made that we make a statement that if we go with nuclear it is part of a larger long-term plan. Dave L will check into options for other forms of energy.

Executive committee: Dave and Kathleen met with Bob Sheeran. He has reviewed the Annual Report and will be presenting it at today's cabinet meeting. Dave will distribute it to the team.

Budget & Funding: A meeting to discuss the possibility to capture grant funds was attended by Dave, Pickett, Annette, Mary Kochlefl and Cheryl McElroy.

Other Institutions

Dave and Kathleen meet with the sustainability director Marshall Eames from Loyola. Loyola is much further ahead than Xavier with their sustainability efforts. His boss is Nancy Tuchman who is the speaker lined up for sustainability day. He has a very diverse background and offered great insight into their process.

Climate Action Plan (CAP)

The original plan was that something would be presented at sustainability day. The thought was that different sections would be assigned to members to complete. Kathleen went through the various sections and their assignments. The group discussed what the best approach could be to get the buy-in needed from across campus. One option is to draft a version and then get buy-in on from the faculty and staff. The process that Marshall Eames is using at Loyola is to ask each department to create their own sustainability action plan. This will guarantee buy-in but is a very slow process that is estimated to take two to five years. The direction at Loyola is coming from the top down. Marshall indicated that behavior modification was essential to impact your footprint but also very difficult to achieve. For example, can you modify class schedules to fit the seasons to better save electricity?

The group reviewed the assignments to ensure that everyone has been assigned a task. Steve Cobb brought the UW Osh Gosh plan to the academic meeting to use as a model.

Conferences

Greening the Campus, Ball State, September 20-23, 2009 will be attended by Kathleen and Dave. The Renewing the Campus: Sustainability and the Catholic University conference, October 9-11, 2009 will be attended by Dave and James, our intern. The AJCU Facilities conference, April 18-21 2010, happens every year at a different Jesuit college or university and will be sponsored by Xavier this year. A third track for sustainability was added. Bob is spearheading all the coordinations for this meeting. The final one is the Ignition Teach-in and the theme is sustainability for this year. Peace and Justice will likely send some students to this one. It was noted that all members of the Committee are encouraged to identify and if possible attend appropriate conferences.

Sustainability Goals

The AASHE recommended date for a plan in place and working to achieve 2012. The goal to achieve climate neutrality is 2050. For example, the City of Cincinnati is using the 2050 date for 80% reduction of the carbon footprint.

The question was asked what our committee's position should be on buying off sets and what should be the timeline for achieving our goals. The general consensus is that we want to purchase as few offsets as possible. What Xavier could do by itself is limited. This leaves few practical options such as biothermal. Rumpke is selling biogas to UC who is using it to create electricity and hot water. Dave indicated that central plant equipment efficiencies have dramatically improved during the last few years. These new technologies have been incorporated into the central utility plant currently under construction. The road block is as always cash flow. Currently funding is at a premium for the new buildings. Additionally, although all the new

buildings will be more efficient, we are expanding the campus. Marshall felt that the most accurate measure is the consumption per credit hour. Consumption per FTE would also work for this metric but the more accurate is the credit hour.

The group then brainstormed on goals. Dave commented that it is impractical to reduce by 80% by 2012. The infrastructure and technology has not matured to the point that it is economically feasible. A more realistic date, with the appropriate infrastructure and technology is 2025.

Mary suggested the following goals: 10% by 2012, 50% by 2025 and 80% by 2050. Kathleen was thinking 20% by 2012 with the metric being consumption per credit hour. The question was raised how the increased enrollment of students will impact our footprint. A new dorm and a new Alter Hall will have ramifications, both positive and negative. Using the credit hour for calculation will help see the impacts easier. Since a new dining facility is planned for the new dorm, this could also impact the University's carbon footprint. The growth projections need to be taken into consideration. Kathleen revised her estimate to 15% by 2012. Dave suggested that we present low, medium and high projections with timeframes applied to them.

Next meetings

- Summer meeting: August 3, 9-10:30 am
- Fall meetings: Aug. 31, 8-9:30; October 5, 8-9:30 (Kathleen away); November 2, 8-9:30; December 7, 8-9:30 (Kathleen likely away)

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Marksberry