

Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

9/9/08

Location: Physical Plant Conference Room

Presiding: Dave Lococo, Kathleen Smythe

Present: Kelly Akers, Chris Barbour, Steve Cobb, George Farnsworth, Pickett Harrington, Dave Lococo, Doug Olberding, Dick Puhlskamp (proxy), Caroline Richardson, Mary Rosenfeldt, Brett Simmons, Kathleen Smythe, Samantha Thomeczek

Next Meeting: October 14, 1:00 P.M., Physical Plant Large Conference Room

Meeting called to order at 1:00 P.M.

1) Minute-taker: Chris Barbour

Document review:

1) Minutes from 8/19/08 approved

2) Submissions from sub committees have been put together and were passed around to the committee for review. The tangible actions, funding, and student actions subcommittee reports will be added to the report soon. Final version of the report is due to the President's Office by 9/19/08.

Discussion items:

a) Brent Blair created a proposal for an Environmental Studies Fellowship in which students are required to volunteer for an environmentally related organization (30hrs per semester) as well as coordinate environmentally related activities on campus (2 per semester). Two fellowships in the amount of \$4000.00 (per year) each will go to senior E.S. minors. The year will be finalized with student presentations of learning. September 2009 is the goal for the start of this program.

b) Steve James, retired EPA employee, is currently teaching an Environmental Physics course. He has assigned his class to conduct a greenhouse gas inventory on campus. Steve Cobb will meet with this class to discuss opportunities. Kathleen suggested we forward information to Mr. James so that he may develop classroom assignments that fall in line with what we as a committee are attempting to do here at XU. Dick met with a student on yesterday to discuss CACP workbook.

c) Kathleen presented a "No Drive Day" proposal from a 13 year old girl to celebrate Feast of St. Francis Assisi 10/4/08. More information on this can be found at www.adayofrest.org.

d) Estevan Gambala spoke with Kathleen regarding the need for additional bike racks on campus. Kiki will speak with Estevan and SGA further to see about funding efforts. Two new bike racks were added in front of Gallagher. Doug stressed the importance of having a plan or acknowledgment of what's happening on campus. Brett will forward the bike inventory information, initially conducted by Doug, to Dave.

e) The explanation of role of the tangible actions subcommittee was given to Mary by Kathleen. Tangible actions will function as the overseers and present recommendations based on information from the information sheets. T.A. role is to also find glaring mistakes and send out regular reports of catalog efforts. Kathleen also stated that there must a point person for this subcommittee. This should be decided soon. George will attempt to have Biology club turn in submission(s) by next meeting.

Additional information: Kathleen discussed the possibility of working with Blis Devault and her electronic media class. Blis is a new professor in the Communication Arts department, who is responsible for running the TV club and studio. This could be a tremendous resource for our committee. Chris and Kiki are names from the committee that will be given to Blis as points of contact. Greg should also be included in discussions.

George spoke about RA's responsibility to provide programming for each of the respective dorms/on-campus apartments. We could possibly provide them with ideas in effort to inform and excite the campus community.

Subcommittee discussions

Communication

- The website will be viewed in the next few weeks because Greg was unable to attend this meeting. Once we view the site, all should provide feedback before the next meeting.

Funding

- Pickett is researching other campuses to:
 - 1) locate sources of funding
 - 2) locate sources of faculty and staff led efforts
 - 3) locate opportunities for students to create funding for sustainability efforts
- He does have questions regarding the tax abatements and the new buildings. Also, there are questions regarding some of the jargon used in the building efforts, outside expertise is welcomed. He also stressed the need for student involvement. Kiki will speak with Student Life and Community Affairs (a subcommittee of SGA) about the possibility of SGA looking into a fee that could be charged to students in order to

provide some assistance with funding. Steve brought up the fact that UVA has no trays in the cafeteria. This is one way to save water, food, and energy. This money saving venture could be a way to create a revolving fund. George noticed the faucets were changed to lower flowing water, in the bathroom in Albers Hall. Dave commented that these changes just occur and it is difficult to catalog each and every change made on campus (i.e. lights, water spouts, etc.) Future efforts will be made.

Tangible Action

- The tangible action committee introduced the idea of re-branding the committee name. The name at this point is vague and difficult to grasp. Discussion took place over whether to change the name and if so, when? The goal is to come up with names that fit the group's efforts. The group decided to vote on a name via email because we do not want to add to the confusion by changing the group name once we are known throughout the campus community. Brett will be the point person for the electronic vote for names
- Kelly created a very useful form that will allow the tangible actions subcommittee to receive suggestions from individuals/groups campus-wide.
- It was decided that more campus transportation data is necessary before committing to pilot programs through TANK or METRO.
- The bike to work group will continue to work together to gauge interest from others.

Student Subcommittee

- Student subcommittee will wait for programs before actually forming a group with additional members. There was question of whether or not to add the committee name to the upcoming programs in effort to gain recognition.

Inventory

- Steve received several usage reports from various offices on campus (athletics and 2 deans).
- Dick passed around population locations for XU faculty and staff (925 records). Discussion took place regarding ways to gather student zip codes. The committee could include a line for student's to write their zip code on the surveys.

Institutional Action Plan

- Currently in holding pattern, met with Dan Schloemer and sent information out but no response yet. There may be a need for administrative intervention to penetrate higher levels.

- Information was sent to James Buchanon and he approved of what was being done.
- James was curious about whether or not we were offsetting and the reply was, not at this time.
- List including all subcommittees was passed around to identify who is on which committee.

Meeting adjourned 2:20 P.M.

CB