

## Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2010

Location: Physical Plant Conference Room

Presiding: Kathleen Smythe & Dave Lococo

Present: Ginny Frings, Cheryl McElroy, George Farnsworth, Molly Robertshaw, Dan Marschner

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am

- **Sustainability Logo**
  - Having spoken to the Sculpture class, the instructor sounded very interested in the possibility of a 3D version
  - Marketing sees the leaf logo as the official one of the Sustainability Committee and are resistant to adopt the new version
  - Questions were raised about the size of the 3D version, where it would be stored, the materials involved in its creation, and how portable it would be.
  
- **Grants**
  - Cheryl attended a grant workshop for the Ohio Educational Fund and will apply for a mini-grant for meters of up to \$5,000.
  - Another possible grant partner preferred to fund buildings on campus, and Fr. Graham will pursue this partner for other possibilities than the meters.
  
- **Committee Replacements**
  - Laurel Bauer resigned and Kat Hollowell from Web Services will be joining the committee. Laurel will continue to help with Sustainability Day 2010.
  - The committee now has 3 open positions.
    - Kat will be an ad hoc member, she is not from Marketing or PR
    - Daun Seitz resigned, represented WCB
    - Pickett Harrington resigned, represented CBI / Eigel Center
  - Any suggestions for potential new members would be welcome
    - Especially non-faculty members, representatives from CAPS or the College of Social Sciences, Health and Education
    - Would Izola White be a possibility? Liz Blume?
  
- **Carpet Recycling**
  - Physical Plant will continue to pursue recycling processes with suppliers who have retirement programs for older carpets
  - Largest obstacle to recycling is the expense involved
  - Students also throw away a large amount of perfectly good items because they do not have somewhere to donate them
    - Student rummage sale has been beneficial

- Partnerships with local charities have been formed, and donations typically overwhelm capacity within a very short period
      - Need for better coordination with donation partners
- **Student Activities**
  - Students were surveyed with regard to the green fee and bicycling on campus.
  - Green fee
    - Of the more than 200 responses received, 60% were willing to pay some amount of optional green fee - \$10 per year the most common response received
  - Bicycling
    - The largest obstacles to biking were that students do not have a bike and not enough students bike to campus (lack of a critical mass).
    - Safety on the road and bad weather concerns were also cited
    - Bike registration, access to helmets, and bike tours are all possible solutions
    - Campus police confiscate bikes left on racks for extended periods
      - Could these bikes be donated to begin a bike rental program?
      - Bike auctions take place with these bikes currently
- **Campus Sustainability Plan and Cabinet Meeting**
  - One suggestion is to expand the green fee proposal to graduate students and faculty and staff.
    - Any collection of funds would have to be coordinated with development
    - A common fund for donations (both green fee and outside donors) would be ideal for sustainability projects in the future
    - The green fee would be overseen by the Sustainability Committee but students would ultimately decide its use
  - Travel
    - Gary Massa suggested that Development could decrease their travel up to 20%.
  - Fr. Graham wants the CSP compressed into its key elements, and required Vice Presidents to implement sustainability commitments into future planning
    - Will Fr. Graham make his vision public at Sustainability Day 2010?
  - Dr. Fortin suggested that the education piece needs to de-emphasize climate change and emphasize economic benefits of sustainability
  - The mood in the room seemed to be exhaustion and being overwhelmed
    - The CSP is potentially just another charge to consume time and resources
      - There are some champions for sustainability within the Cabinet
  - The final document needs to have goals that are achievable, within a 1-3 year timeframe.

- The CSP should be reduced from long-term goals to 3-5 year goals, then goals should be prioritized and budget implications should be noted
  - Education of the Cabinet members about the CSP will be essential to its successful implementation
- **Future Goals**
  - The CSP needs to be finalized, ideally before the UPRC has to review the entire document
    - The deadline for submission to the ACUPCC is September 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Sustainability Week 2010
    - Laura Wallace, Kathleen and Dan are working on the details currently
    - Emphasis on student engagement throughout the week
  - Education
    - The committee members should work with their respective departments to educate their colleagues about the CSP
    - The Environmental Science major has been approved
    - The student Sustainability Club is approved as well, George Farnsworth is the advisor and the club will help coordinate events
    - SGA has already set aside \$5,000 for sustainability projects for next year
- **Energy Rebates**
  - Duke Energy provided \$91,000 for rebates from energy savings at the university – these funds will go into the general fund
  - Any ongoing savings that could be tied to Sustainability could be accessed for future projects
    - Payback is essential to any future savings

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Marschner

*Next meeting: June 28, 2010 at 9:00 am*