

Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes  
7/15/2008

Location: Physical Plant Conference Room  
Presiding: Dave Lococo, Kathleen Smythe  
Present: Kelly M. Akers, Steve Cobb, George Farnsworth, Pickett Harrington,  
Dave Lococo, Annette Marksberry, Doug Olberding, Brett Simmons,  
Kathleen Smythe, Vanessa Strickley

Next Meeting: August 19, 8:30 a.m., Physical Plant Large Conference Room

Meeting called to order at 7:30 a.m.

Minutes from 6/10/2008 approved

The first order of business was to discuss a method for sharing subcommittee reports. It was decided that subcommittee chairs should email reports to the full committee one week prior to full committee meetings so that members will have time to review the report and comment.

Also, it was requested that requests for financial information from the comptroller be channeled through Dave.

**Sub-committee reports**

*GHG Emissions Inventory Team.* The team has been working on data gathering issues related to the model inputs. One of the main concerns at this point is data related to faculty and staff air travel. The data is not very accessible and will require a lot of work by someone inside the comptroller's office. The comptroller would need to know what types of records need to be kept in order to generate the correct data; there we should devise rules for record keeping. The subcommittee's attempt to solicit help from the three deans was met with mixed results; "more muscle" may be needed to get the deans on board. Getting data on athletics-related travel would be very difficult. Since athletics works with outside vendors to provide travel, there are no records kept in their office. The GHG team will work with Dick Pulskamp on faculty commuting.

*Institutional Action Plan.* The group has started conversations with Mission and Identity toward the goal of establishing Xavier as the leading Jesuit university in the area of sustainability. The group also reported on the Hamilton County recycled materials exchange program.

*Tangible Actions Subcommittee.* The group presented a proposal for creating a bus ridership program with Metro similar to that of UC and the TANK program at NKU. Metro proposed that we do a two month pilot program to test the viability of such an effort. The group has also been working on a Bike to Work/School program. As part of this effort, the group will be hosting a meeting later in July with interested faculty and staff to discuss issues related to implementing this effort. The group has already conducted an inventory of bike racks on campus and found that several places (e.g., Cohen and West campus) have virtually no "legal" bike parking and place where bikes are frequently parked (e.g., Husman & Kuhlman) could use additional racks.

*Funding.* Pickett suggested the need to develop funding priorities in order to help determine which sources of funding ought to be pursued. Several strategies for developing priorities would be 1) to tie funding LEED categories, 2) connect funding to facility resource initiatives, and 3) seek opportunities that support student generated initiatives to support climate and sustainability research/actions. Pickett also discussed the idea of exploring a revolving loan fund which could be funded with student fees to support climate and sustainability initiatives on campus.

### **Presentation by Mary Beth McGrew**

At this point, the group took a short break to allow Mary Beth McGrew, Architect for the University of Cincinnati and chair of UC's Climate and Sustainability effort to set up her presentation. Ms. McGrew began with a PowerPoint presentation which summarized UC's efforts and highlighted some of their new green buildings. Ms. McGrew reported that UC's effort in the area of climate and sustainability has been an *unfunded* initiative. The really important work has been done with the help and cooperation of faculty, administrators, staff and students from across campus. The fact that it was unfunded forced Ms. McGrew to reach out to many different campus populations which she felt was one of the very positive outcomes of their effort.

Their effort is guided by a senior leadership team similar to Xavier's current committee. Then there is a steering committee followed by an implementation advisory board and an implementation support network. The work of the committee and the climate and sustainability efforts of various groups across campus are tracked via a Sustainability Program Matrix. Ms. McGrew shared the matrix with the committee and commented that it has served as a vehicle for tracking all of the efforts going on across campus while providing a means for those with new ideas to present them to the committee. In summary, any person or group suggesting a way to help with the climate and sustainability effort can complete a one-page prospectus which is reviewed by the steering committee. If the project is approved, it is placed on the matrix under the appropriate category and the groups efforts can be tracked as the project progresses. This also serves as an inventory of all that is being done in the area of climate and sustainability.

As part of the above presentation, Ms. McGrew discussed a campus lecture series that has resulted from their group's efforts known as Climate Commitment 101. She shared some of the lecture topics and invited our committee and any interested students faculty and staff to attend their November 7<sup>th</sup> lecture on nuclear power.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Dave asked all committee members to respond with comments about Ms. McGrew's presentation.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,  
Doug Olberding