

Sustainability Council

Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2006

Present: Constance Adler, Karen Arabas, Joe Bowersox, Susan Chiapella, Forrest, Sue Koger, Kiry Nelson, Jennifer Roney, Elizabeth Seibert, Nathan Sivers Boyce, Nadene Steinhoff, Teresa.

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Board of Trustees Retreat:

Janelle D, Jim B, Jeff E, and Susan S all attended the retreat along with those on hand to present to the Board. Joe, Karen, Constance, and Kiry all felt the presentation went very well. Jennifer noted that Symeon S. remarked to her that he was very impressed with the presentation and how well prepared everyone was. He told her we “made sustainability more than what it is perceived to be – not just all about the environment.” Janis Nichols said the Council “hit it out of the park” and was “the highlight of the weekend.”

Council members asked what the next step will be. Joe said the next step should be to get the proposal finalized for the Commission on Excellence. We need to keep the Board involved and engaged and interested in our values. Discussion turned to the need for securing external money through fundraising or “friend-raising,” a phrase Robin coined. Possibly approaching people for assistance that we know are of like mind with our values. Council members would like to see things move from volunteer work to established university work. Ron Korvas is going on the road and wanted to take the talking points from the BoT Retreat presentation with him to familiarize himself with our accomplishments and goals.

Fall Conference:

Jennifer mentioned there was a Board member who would like to be involved with the Fall Conference. She has his name and will be talking to him soon and with Dick Roy who is interested in the Fall Conference also. The theme for the conference will be Connecting to the Community and Linda P will help organize. The goal is to create a dialogue with the greater Salem community. Jennifer welcomes names of any community member who might be interested or contacted for help. Names floated included Regina Hauser (Oregon Natural Step), Mayor Janet Taylor, and David Van’t Hof, Governor Kulongoski’s Sustainability Advisor. Jennifer will report back in two weeks with updates on the conference.

New Business:

Robin asked if anyone knew why there were no longer “to go” mugs in the Bistro, she suggested a “Coffee Amnesty” day to protest. Council members suggested working with the Bistro on a promotion such as “Bring 1, Leave 1” and get a free refill. If you bring in one mug and leave another mug you receive a free refill. Forest knows one of the Bistro managers and said he could approach them and see if they were willing to do this. The SC could go ½’s on the price of the cup of coffee if that would be more enticing to them.

Sue mentioned the continuing problem in Smullin 222 of the heat being turned up and the windows being left open in the room. She is exasperated and asked the Council for suggestions on what to do. Members noted that it is also happening in other buildings as well. Perhaps we could talk to the Collegian about doing an article or writing a guest editorial for the paper. Other suggestions included putting up signs or sending out campus emails. Some thought we should focus one building at a time or that we could use the same approach the Energy Conservation Task Force (ECTF) used during TIUA’s orientation: have faculty members sign a pledge card and receive a travel mug. April is sustainability month; we could focus on campus conservation during the month. Nadene will put an article in Inside Willamette about the ECTF to help publicize.

We need to take in the RA’s on campus as a resource for getting the word out about conservation and sustainability. We could have a “Free Food and Sustainability Presentation.” Another thought was to talk to Gretchen Moon and see if we can present to the Collegian class and they could adopt sustainability into an article. The question was asked as to when the RA’s are selected for next year. Joe would check into it so we could perhaps reach them early and get them on board.

Joe discussed the possibility of purchasing Carbon Credits when we sponsor events in the future requiring guests to travel from a distance. We could calculate what the carbon credit would be for the mileage the guest is traveling and pay the credit outright. It might serve as a nice enticement for guest speakers. Many Council members were unfamiliar with Carbon Credits and wondered where the money goes to and who receives it. Joe explained that you purchase carbon credit for verifiable reductions in carbon emissions and usage and the money goes to support tree planting or new technology for offsetting the emissions and impact to the climate. It is important to note that it IS NOT a carbon trading scheme. It is Kyoto compliant. Should we contact the Travel Center to see if they are interested in helping us? We could set up a “Trees for Travel” program, where you purchase tree offsets (replanting in deforested areas in developing countries) at the time of travel. Carbon credits are not meant to solve the problem but at least provide a stop gap solution. It helps make the cost visible and helps to reduce the impacts. There are several companies that offer carbon credits - how do we make sure these companies are legitimate? Legitimate, reputable companies are United Nations endorsed and can be verified by 3rd party certifiers.

Robin asked if we could see if sustainability could be a possible theme for the World Views class. World Views is no longer being taught, it is now called “1st Year Seminar”

and its focus has changed, but we may want to encourage the adoption of sustainability themes within these individually taught seminars.

Joe also mentioned that if the university buys Green Power we would get extra points for Kaneko. We could set up a Green Power Purchasing campaign. How much would we need to purchase for LEED certification? An amount equivalent to the energy costs for the building for 2 years. Thus, the university would need to commit for 2 years at approximately \$8,000 per year or a total of \$16,000 to \$20,000.

Robin wanted to remind everyone that the SAQ will take place on Wednesday, March 8th from 2:00 – 5:00 pm in the Willson-Hines Room of Goudy. Refreshments will be served and 35 people have been invited by President Pelton to attend. Kiry said she would like to help with this event also and the final draft of SAQ questions has been received.

The next SC meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 7th at 11:30 am in the Alumni Lounge, 3rd floor of the UC.