

# **Sustainability Council**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **February 7, 2006**

**Present:** Constance Adler, Karen Arabas, Joe Bowersox, Janelle Duyck, Forest, Kiri Nelson, Scott Pike, Elizabeth Seibert, Nathan Sivers Boyce, Nadene Steinhoff.

Today we are celebrating the 1 year Anniversary of the formation of the Sustainability Council. Joe congratulated everyone on their hard work and successes over the past year.

#### **Board of Trustee's Meeting – February 18<sup>th</sup>:**

Nadene, Kiri and Constance created an extensive and thorough set of talking points for the Board of Trustees presentation. Nadene recognizes that it is very long and needs to be edited but wanted input from the Council in doing so. The 1<sup>st</sup> three pages are meant as an introduction for Karen A. to present (Council overview, why sustainability matters and the 4-E's). Joe encouraged students to take an active role in the presentation, particularly the Accomplishments section, where Sustainability Grant recipients could be spotlighted. Janelle D. agreed to speak about her grant. Nadene will work with Allison Towers creating Powerpoint slides for the presentation, but they will not be text heavy, the focus should be on the presentation and the people speaking, not on the screen. The presentation needs to be practiced and refined prior to Saturday the 18th. Joe would like the presentation to flow and the content to be polished. Nadene suggested someone help with the clicker to advance the Powerpoint slides so the speaker is not fumbling with that. Joe asked the students if there was any particular section they would like to address. Sustainability is a growing trend on campuses and there is a lot to gain from implementing and teaching sustainability. It also makes WU more competitive. Karen would like to pare down the Intro so the Accomplishments section and students are highlighted. The question was raised as to whether the Accomplishments sections should provide the supporting details in the 4-E's section (ie: talk about Education and list accomplishments, talk about Environment and list accomplishments). Should the Accomplishments be distinct and separate from the 4-E's?

With the Board of Trustees, we need to be concerned with the process and not overwhelm them with details.

The idea of incorporating what sustainability means to people in a video format was discussed, but the Council concluded that it was too time consuming to try to produce in the short time period we have. The alternative would be to possibly show pictures of students with their quotes scrolling through on a slideshow while the Board members ate lunch. This was a possibility and would be looked into.

Joe asked everyone to review the Sustainability Council's website. It needs to be updated a bit and he would like feedback on any areas that need particular attention.

### **Campus Assessment:**

Jeff E. could not attend today's SC meeting to talk about the campus-wide assessment. Joe reported that Sodexo has provided the university with background materials and other interesting information in their presentation packet. Joe has reviewed the packet and noted several things, including that they encourage campus recycling and composting. They utilize safe, environmentally-friendly, green products whenever possible. Forty percent of the products they acquire are local, organically grown products. They adhere to the Monterey Bay Standards for seafood. Sodexo was instrumental in the anti-apartheid movement before it was recognized around the world and their social responsibility is based on the Global Sullivan Principles. Sodexo also provided their most recent 2005 Diversity Report for the university to review. On a more local note, they were also heavily involved in the negotiations between PCUN and Norpac that resulted in the agreement that ended the boycott.

A question was raised as to what the Sustainability Council needs to do with/about this information. It was concluded that we need to gear up and familiarize ourselves with Sodexo and be thinking about what we want included in the Assessment. What information do we need to give them? Help with the framework, clarification of our goals and issues, our priorities and a strategy for what we want assessed. Western Michigan University's campus assessment is online and can provide a model to guide us. Elizabeth noted that the inclusion of TIUA in the assessment process is important and a formal invitation should be extended to Jeff and Gunnar. They may even be willing to help with funding.

### **Fall Conference:**

Jennifer Roney was not able to attend today's meeting and give an update on the planning for the Fall Sustainability Conference.

### **Fairview Research/Sustainability Grant:**

Sam Hall has been working on creating a research grant for students in conjunction with the Sustainable Fairview project. The funding should be secured in the next few weeks which would allow for 3-5 Carson-like grants. They would be awarded to undergrads and advanced grads. The award size would be similar to the Carson and would also include faculty support. The focus will not necessarily be on Fairview or Salem, but will be on sustainability in a broadly construed sense. The university will likely form a committee to put together the grant process and create an advertising campaign in March, with a projected application closing deadline in April. The grant may be administered by several groups including Monique's office, the SC, Fairview, etc. Several SC members stated they would be more comfortable if it were not administered by the SC, but rather an impartial group. Perhaps 1 member from the SC could be included with the remainder

made of members from the larger campus, Monique's office, and Fairview. It would be a good idea to check and make sure the campus members chosen have the time to sit on another committee before they are recruited. The sense is that Fairview would like to have involvement in who receives the grants.

Elizabeth, Kiri and Constance have been working on the ECTF (Energy Conservation Task Force). They have talked to Bon Appetit regarding take out containers. Each container costs \$.041 and there are health regulations about students bringing in their own containers to carry out food. Bon Appetit has agreed to post signs in English and Japanese regarding the take out containers. Bon Appetit stated that 25% of all meals are take-out and they don't want to charge for the use of the containers. They do have a policy for a discount for those that bring in their own mug for beverages however. On a different note, motion detector lights have been installed on a test basis in some buildings and the idea of sponsoring a brass plaque to "fund a light switch" has been bantered about. Sustainability training for RA's is ongoing. On February 8<sup>th</sup>, the ECTF will conduct a sustainability orientation for the new TIUA students. Students will be broken into 4 groups, they will sign pledge cards to turn off unused lights, reduce, reuse, recycle, etc. Each new TIUA student will receive a travel mug.

#### **EFSWEST Workshop:**

Scott Pike reported back on the workshop he was able to attend with the funding the SC provided. The workshop was sponsored by EFS WEST and set out to train faculty to lead on campus. They aimed to give faculty the skills to go back to their campuses and gain support and cooperation from administrators in the area of sustainability. Scott felt the campus failed in several areas. They discussed the Piedmont Project and Ponderosa Project, but not as in-depth as they could have. The Piedmont Project focuses on curricular development and internal training. Would WU want to pursue creating a model program similar to the Piedmont? Would we want to try to secure a Hewlett Grant for this? In 2006 or 2007? Would this project be in addition to a retreat or in conjunction with it or all together separate? The deadline for Hewlett's for 2006 is fast approaching and there isn't enough time to prepare, so if we pursue this, it would be in 2006. We can table the discussion for now and revisit it later in the semester.

#### **Sustainability Retreat:**

We need to begin looking into the content and possible sites for the Sustainability Retreat this summer. One possibility is the former Camp West Wind, which used to be a YWCA camp, in Portland. A group has been formed to save the site and the proposal is for it to become a Sustainability Center for nature exploration.

#### **Kaneko Update:**

Good news! The current scoring for Kaneko shows it meeting the Silver standard; however, it looks like there is a possibility it may meet the Gold standard before it is completed!

**Sustainability Month:**

April is Sustainability Month. We are planning several events, more on these events in the weeks to come.

**Items on the Next SC Meeting Agenda:**

The Landscape Stewardship Committee will present a draft of their goals and guidelines. Ron Nichols will give a presentation on their long-term objectives.

**The next Sustainability Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 am in the Alumni Lounge, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor – UC.**