

Sustainability Council Meeting Minutes September 27, 2005

Present:

Council Members: Constance Adler, Karen Arabas, Joe Bowersox, Sue Koger, Kiri Nelson, Jennifer Ronney, Elizabeth Siebert, Nathan Sivers-Boyce.

Campus Members: Susan Chiappella, Bob Collin, Kat Eum, Carl Hillig, Jodi Lowes, Susan Smith

Campus Sustainability Day:

Bob Collin gave an update on plans for Campus Sustainability Day. ECOS has agreed to help coordinate the broadcast of the NPR Webcast. Bob will be inviting several local groups to set up tables around the campus during the day and committee members suggested other groups that they thought might be interested as well. Among the groups mentioned were Sustainable Fairview, Friends of Marion County, EcoTrust, Oregon Peaceworks, Citizens for Livable Communities, Salem Ride Share, Marion County Solid Waste, and the Environmental Learning Center. If you know of any other groups or organizations that an invitation could be extended to, please email Bob this week. An invitation was extended to Governor John Kitzhaber to speak that day, but he will be in Baltimore and unable to attend. Bob mentioned possibly inviting Ernest Warren as a speaker. Mr. Warren has worked on the class action lawsuit involving the Oregon State Penitentiary and the leakage of toxic chemicals into the local groundwater. Mr. Warren could speak on the equity component of sustainability. Other ideas for Sustainability Day include locating a garbage tarp outside of Goudy to visibly illustrate the amount of food waste that accumulates daily and displaying Factual Food Placards on tables in the dining halls. On Thursday, September 29th, Bon Appetit will be sponsoring an Eat Local Challenge in Goudy. One food line will feature only food grown within 150 miles of Salem. If it proves successful, Bob may ask that it be repeated on Campus Sustainability Day.

(On a disheartening note, it was announced that Beth Delmar will be leaving Bon Appetit in October and relocating to Idaho with family. She will be greatly missed.)

Decision Making Process:

Discussion concerning the decision making process of the Council was continued. During the last Council meeting time ran short and a full discussion could not take place. Concern were raised as to whether or not Council meetings that involved funding decisions or discussions of a professional nature involving colleagues should be kept open or should be closed for privacy's sake. The Council members were split on the subject. The group felt that while large issues most likely will not come up, it was best to decide a protocol of how situations would be handled ahead of time, should they arise

later. The Council felt that the openness of the meetings should be protected. Issues of a sensitive nature could be vetted in small groups and then presented in a constructive manner to the larger group. The Mini-Grants were used as an example. The group as a whole will decide the criteria for a smaller (working) group to consider. The smaller group will meet and return to the Council with their recommendations. The Council as a whole will then consider the recommendations and make their final decisions. The Council agreed that this was the best, most diplomatic way to handle the decision-making process and that it could always be revisited at some point in the future, if necessary.

Working Groups:

Karen and Nathan provided updates on the working groups.

Short-term Working Group: Posters have been created and put up around campus advertising the Mini-Grants and an email announcement was also sent to the campus community. Kiri spoke to James Berndt in Facilities about distribution to his staff that do not have computer/email access. James will make announcements in staff meetings and make sure the word gets out. Karen asked that everyone please help spread the word about the grants. Grant applications will come to Allisa Jones. Monique Bourque has created a form to send out around campus to find out what individuals and departments are doing sustainability-wise. She will compile the feedback and share it with us.

Long-term Working Group: Nathan said the working group is hoping to meet with the Board of Trustees and the Administrative Council. They hope to be able to meet with the Board of Trustees at their October meeting and raise awareness about sustainability (what is it? why is it important? how can they help?). He hopes they will help us to incorporate and adopt sustainable policies for the university. The working group is trying to schedule a breakfast meeting with members of the Administrative Council. This would be a less formal meeting than with the Board of Trustees. There are members of the Sustainability Council on the Administrative Council, therefore the starting point and approach is a little different. Council members worried that the Board of Trustees are action-oriented people and may feel we are asking them to set policy from the 'top down' and try to take the reins. The Council would like to see the discussion with the Board framed in such a way that they become a partner, not a leader. We would like the Board's cooperation in helping us with specific policy areas (how can they *help* us, as a university, to be more sustainable?) not with the broader policy setting issues (what they *want* us to do as a university to be more sustainable).

Energy Saving on Campus:

Students and staff have been approaching council members lately with concerns on various issues (lights not being turned off, windows not being closed when heaters are on, the lack of garbage cans and/or recycling bins in several locations, etc.). The Council also raised some of their personal concerns. Joe asked how the Council could respond to this on campus, without becoming the "Sustainability Police". Suggestions ranged from printing nice "reminder" signs in classrooms and bathrooms to creating a campus-wide slogan that could be used as a consistent and constant reminder (such as the "Click it or Ticket" seatbelt slogan) to suggesting a mini-grant to could written to address energy

efficiency on campus to incorporating sustainability training into the annual Resident Advisor trainings. Kiri volunteered to pursue this.

The Garten Foundation:

The Garten Foundation is the university's recycling partner. They are a non-profit company that trains people with developmental and learning disabilities and employs them in working wage jobs. Jim Bauer is a member of their Board of Directors. They contacted Joe recently about their fire system, which purges hundreds (thousands?) of gallons of water over a 30-minute period of time on a weekly basis. They are hoping for suggestions or solutions to re-route or re-use this water for landscaping purposes. The Council would like to help Garten and perhaps facilitate finding a partner that could donate labor or engineering design. Jennifer R. will try to help connect Garten with someone and might try to incorporate their problem into a class project.

Marketing Class Sustainability Project:

Carl Hillig and Kat Eum gave an update on their class project that will help define attitudes on sustainability. They are focusing on the campus community and hope their study will help define the basics of sustainability, gauge the campus's ideals of sustainability, determine what people feel they are doing that contributes to sustainability, and get an understanding of sustainability. This should allow the Council to better understand the amount of sustainability information the campus will accept, what areas are lacking and the steps they need to take to implement more awareness. The methodology Carl and Kat will use will be a mass survey with general questions to gauge the baseline attitude. This will help them to narrow their focus for the second phase involving focus groups of 10-20 people. Approximately 4000 surveys will be sent out initially. The survey questions will be drafted by October 1st, all data will be collected by November 1st and the results will be tabulated and presented by December 13th. Surveys will be distributed electronically to students and faculty and most staff members. Carl and Kat expect a 15% response rate, however, for those staff members without computer access, paper surveys will be distributed and the response rate for those will differ than the electronically generated surveys. IRB approval is not necessary for this project as it is a student class project and results are not being distributed. Carl and Kat will be contacting other universities who have had similar surveys for sample questions they used. Carl and Kat would like Council members to contact them with any specific items they would like to have included. They will send out the draft survey questions to Council members and would appreciate any feedback you could offer.

Oregon Natural Step:

Oregon Natural Step has forwarded Joe an invitation to send a team from the university to a series of workshops for certification in the Natural Step process. Four half-day workshops will be held on Saturdays in October, November and December. The cost for 3-5 people to be trained is \$1900. Joe will send the pdf of the workshop agenda to the Council members for their review. The workshops seem to be aimed at administrators

and finding people willing to give up 4 of their Saturdays may be difficult. The Council feels the cost is rather steep and suggested first finding out if there is an interest in attending and then seeking additional funds to cover the fees. The Council also thought it was important to get references from people who have attended these trainings and get their feedback before making the commitment.

Reminder:

On Thursday, September 29th, the Convocation will be on Alternative Transportation and also on that day Bon Appetit will be sponsoring the Eat Local Challenge in Goudy.

Working Groups will meet next Tuesday, October 4th at 11:30 in UC-Dining Room 1

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, October 11th at 11:30 in UC-Dining Room 1