Willamette University Sustainability Institute
Advisory Board Meeting Notes

February 24, 2014

Attending: Joe Abraham, Joe Bowersox (Chair), Elliot Maltz, Madeline McClelland, Bryan Schmidt, Adam Torgerson, Jan Gardner

Note taker: Marylee Lannan

Introductions:

Joe A. introduced Madeline as the undergraduate representative appointed by ASWU and Marylee as the Administrative Assistant to Deborah Dancik. Joe B. is communicating with AGSM student body president to appoint a graduate student.

Institute Work Plan Update:

Zena

Joe A. will work with WITS to simplify the process for gaining access to Zena. He is also following up on the meetings with faculty and administrators held in early February. Elliot will send him a list of names in Atkinson and suggested Joe meet with them in person. Joe A. is also working with Res Life and CMs about Zena-specific programming that could be piloted next academic year.

AASHE STARS assessment

Joe A: we are using the STARS tool to share data with Princeton Review, who promote ‘green schools.” A rating of 83 or higher will get us listed as a green school (likely). Our peer institutions are regularly listed. Bryan noted Campus Life staff were having difficulty using the system because all in the department have the same access code. Each entry seemed to deleted previous entries. Action Item: Joe A. will give Madeline access to see the tools. He will follow up on the issue Bryan noted.

4Es support at Willamette:

A meeting with the Social Justice people was to be on the snow day. They are rescheduling.

The group discussed whether or not the 4E concept was still relevant as an organizing principle. Madeline noted that it is used in design classes. The equity group among students is more vocal that the environmental group. It might be possible to increase relevance by hooking into their energy. The consensus was that it is important not to silo each “E” but rather to connect them.

WU has received a $25,000 Kemper grant for six summer internships at $4000 each to work for a for-profit organization. Joe A. is hoping the internship coordinator at Atkinson can suggest businesses to approach for spots. Elliot is working with a social entrepreneur group in Portland.
The Development Office is working on their case statement, but shows promise of including Zena. Joe A. is considering developing something about how to take a liberal arts education and make it marketable through internships as a potential lure for a business to donate to.

There is no centralized undergraduate internship on campus, but several departments post internships to their majors.

**Green Fund Proposal:**

ASWU is proposing a green fund they intend to bring to a vote this spring. Madeline will learn more about it from Megan, and she thinks that students in general will support it. Concern was expressed about people’s equating “sustainability” with “green.” Why is there a “green fund” but not and “equity fund?” Perhaps it could be called the “4Es Fund.”

**Future of Advisory Board:**

Minutes should be posted on Advisory Board web page rather than campus-blast emails. The group is necessary as a sounding board.