

Sustainability Council Meeting Minutes September 13, 2005

Present:

Council Members: Constance Adler, Karen Arabas, Jim Bauer, Joe Bowersox, Sue Koger, Robin Morris-Collin, Kieri Nelson, Jennifer Ronney, Elizabeth Siebert, Nathan Sivers-Boyce.

Campus Members: Susan Chiappella, Jodi Lowes, Susan Smith, Dean Wentworth

Guests: Bob Collin, Rebecca Dobkins

Hurricane Katrina Campus Response:

Joe opened the meeting with discussion of the campus response to Hurricane Katrina. Many groups on campus have efforts underway to help Katrina victims and the university has established outreach through the Red Cross and UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). The university is accepting displaced students and offering one semester of free tuition and the Law School has already enrolled two students from Katrina. However, broader issues still need to be addressed. A deeper discussion of the social, economic, financial, and environmental aspects of the disaster still needs to be broached with students. There is talk of a possible teach-in being scheduled and the Deans would like to know if the Sustainability Council would like to tie into this campus effort. Everyone felt that this effort should be supported and that it would provide a great connection to the Council's core values and a good opportunity to infuse sustainability into the discussion as it is so pertinent to what happened. The Council would like to encourage the dialogue to be campus-wide, making sure to include the grad schools and TIUA as well, not just CLA. In addition it would be good exposure for the Council. The Council is eager to participate but would not be able to coordinate the event, though, as members are already committed to the various events the Council has planned during the fall.

Campus Sustainability Day:

Bob Collin attended the meeting to give an update on Campus Sustainability Day on October 26th. Bob found out that John Kitzhaber will not be able to speak that day, but might be able to attend the sustainability event in the Spring. Both ECOS and Community Service Learning office are interested in helping with Sustainability Day. There is a Sustainability Day webcast planned for October 26th featuring several NPR personalities that Bob has been checking into. The broadcast costs \$300-350 to set up Bob wasn't sure if that was something that would generate enough interest to justify the cost involved. People felt it would be good for the program and a good unifier. Jim mentioned that WITS would need to help set up/coordinate the technology to do so and that often times transmitting webcasts live doesn't work out so well as phone lines get

jammed if many people are calling in at the same time. It's usually best to tape the webcast and air it later at a time that maximizes student viewing. Bob asked the Council about their feelings on inviting outside groups (groups and businesses from the community) to give presentations during the day on related topics and the Council felt that was a good idea. Tabling space and areas for booths would need to be coordinated for those invited. Bob would like to have a planning meeting to discuss the ideas further. Talk of when that could occur was bantered about. Joe told the group that he was not planning a Council meeting for next Tuesday and that he hopes the Council could follow an alternating week schedule for meetings. Dining Room #1 in the UC is scheduled for the Sustainability Council to meet every Tuesday at 11:30 am all semester long. The group decided to use next week's meeting time slot for working group meetings instead. Bob will meet with people interested in helping him next week during this time.

Long House:

Rebecca Dobkins joined the meeting to discuss her draft proposal for the construction of a Long House to be built on campus. Rebecca has approached the Administrative Council with this idea and it has been added to the agenda for the next Master Planning Committee meeting, as the planning they are doing now will affect Willamette for decades to come. Rebecca has been astonished at the invisibility of Native heritage on campus and the lack of aesthetics and architecture of the Natives indigenous to this area. There are a few campuses in the Northwest with Long House structures: University of Oregon has a 3000 sq. ft building, Portland State University and Evergreen State University have larger buildings. Rebecca envisions a space that is warm and hospitable, that evokes, but does not necessarily replicate Long House architecture, a place that can be used for ceremonial services, hosting large events and dinners and perhaps house various campus offices. Willamette has now partnered with Chemawa Indian School as they begin a new college prep program; a Long House would be a great unifier for the two schools. If well conceived, it could be a sustainable, aesthetically integrated structure and a symbolic connector to our historical roots.

There were questions about where would the Long House be built. Rebecca would like to see it built in a location central to campus and not on the periphery. With Smith eventually being replaced, she would like to see it in that location, although President Pelton does not agree with that vision. The Lee/York grounds are another possibility when those buildings are replaced. Jim reminded us that the footprint of campus will change dramatically in the next 20 years. The traditional entrances to campus that we have today will not be there in the next few years. As WU acquires more property west of Winter Street, that area will be incorporated and the central campus will shift. There are several viable future locations for such a structure to be built. Rebecca has not shared the idea of the Long House with her friends and contacts in the tribal communities as she has not received any commitment or approval from the university and does not want to raise hopes and expectations. She does feel, though, that it would be well supported and well received by the tribal community and feels they would likely pledge funding and materials. The Council members felt the Long House was a very important endeavor to support and be involved with. Rebecca thanked the Council for their time and support

and will next meet with the Master Planning Committee and promised to keep everyone updated.

Working Groups:

The next agenda item discussed was the working groups. Following last week's Council meeting, the Short-term and Long-term working groups met. Joe asked for a quick summary of each group's discussions.

Short-term: The Short-term group discussion focused mainly on the mini-grant application and approving its text for distribution in the next few weeks. A question was raised about the statement in the selection criteria regarding students needing to demonstrate their ability to complete their project. How will they need to demonstrate this and how will it be evaluated? Should this wording be kept in the application or deleted? The group discussed this and concluded that the wording should be left as is. Students could and should demonstrate their ability to complete the project by providing an outline of the major components of their project, including how they intended to accomplish each component, making a clear timeline of when these would be accomplished, etc. A thorough, well-drafted proposal would be enough to show their intentions to complete the project. Jim asked how the Council intended to promote the mini-grants availability. He felt it was important for the Council to maximize campus-wide PR for the grants since it is the Council's first big project. The Council discussed several ideas and felt that posters announcing the mini-grants should be created and the possibility of an article in the *Collegian* would also be examined, the idea of creating table tents for Goudy, the Cat and Bistro was not strongly supported.

Long-term: The Long-term group discussion focused on planning. Until recently, the university only planned in 5-year increments. The group feels it needs to better understand the university's planning process. There seems to be groups who make the plans and groups who make the decisions about those plans. The Administrative Council seems to head this list but then it gets murky from there. The Long-term groups will focus on making a list of the sustainable values most important to the Council and differentiate who does what for university planning.

Zip Cars:

The group talked about the Zip or Flex Car idea. Zip Cars are an inexpensive, easy, and practical mode of transportation. They are as easier to procure than a rental car and hourly and daily rates are available. Most companies offer hybrid vehicles and/or mini-vans such as the Honda Odyssey. The university would pay a monthly revenue guarantee and individuals would pay a nominal fee for participating. There are some drawbacks: most Zip/Flex Car companies have age limits for drivers (21 years of age or older) and insurance is a challenge as we would need coverage for the highest risk age group (18-21 year olds). The popularity of Flex Cars in the Portland area and the incentives offered for using them was discussed. While there are many East Coast universities offering Zip Car programs for students and staff, currently there are only 2 universities on the West Coast utilizing a Zip Car program (UC-Santa Barbara and Portland State University), which could be an attractive selling point for Willamette.

Decision Making Process:

The decision-making process of the Council was discussed. Some members felt there may be a need from time to time to discuss certain issues (such as funding of individual grants) privately outside the presence of non-members. Others felt that Council members should be held accountable for their decisions and encouraged the process to be visible to all. The issue of the funding of the mini-grants was brought up. Some felt that out of consideration to those who would not be receiving a grant, the decision should be done privately and with discretion. The Mini-Grant working group proposed establishing a screening process for the applications. They will review the applications, rank their order and present the Council with their top choices. The full Council can then decide whether to fund and how much to fund the individual proposals. The Council decided that this conversation was too important to decide in the few minutes remaining in the meeting and should be carried forward for further discussion.

Individual Working Groups will meet next Tuesday, September 20th, at 11:30.

The Council will convene again on September 27th at 11:30 pm in UC-Dining Room #1.