

Sustainability Council

Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2006

Present: Constance Adler, Karen Arabas, Joe Bowersox, Jeff Eisenbarth, Sue Koger, Jodi Lowes, Robin Morris Collin, Kiri Nelsen, Nathan Sivers Boyce, Nadene Steinhoff.

This semester Council meetings will be in the Alumni Lounge. Meetings will remain at 11:30 pm on Tuesdays.

Logo:

The Sustainability Council logo has been finalized – there will be 12 versions in 3-color format. Primary color designs are: green with a black leaf, green with a blue leaf and Bearcat gold with a black leaf. It was noted that the metallic gold ink used in the past for the logos can be harmful to the environment, but Joe said they offer an alternative “harvest gold” color that is not harmful and he will request its use for our logo.

Travel mugs with the logo on them will also be ordered and produced for arriving TIUA students, Council members, and others.

Lecturers on Campus:

Ben Boer, an Australian attorney who specializes in sustainability law will be on campus today at 4:00 pm in the Law School, Room 218.

Alan Durning will be speaking Thursday, January 26th at the Straub Environmental Learning Center, which is affiliated with South Salem High School. Mr. Durning is with the Northwest Environmental Watch in Seattle and formerly with World Watch.

Dr. Robert Costanza will be the 2006 Dempsey Lecturer on Thursday, February 16th at 8:00 pm in Hudson Hall. Dr. Costanza is best known for his pioneering work in ecosystem valuation. His lecture, “Ecological Economics: Creating a Sustainable and Desirable Future” is sponsored by the Dempsey Foundation and is free and open to the public, tickets are not required.

Mike McCloskey, former director of the Sierra Club, will speak in the Hatfield Room at 7:00 pm on February 2nd. His book will be available for purchase that evening and all proceeds will benefit ECOS.

William Cronon, an environmental historian, will speak at Linfield College’s Melrose Auditorium on February 7th at 7:30 pm.

Board of Trustees Retreat:

The Sustainability Council has been invited by President Pelton to give a presentation at the Board of Trustees retreat on Saturday, February 18th at Salishan Lodge. The presentation will be from 12:15 to 2:00 pm. President Pelton would like Dr. Costanza to address the Trustees on the importance of sustainability on college campuses from 12:15 – 12:45 pm. From 12:45 – 2:00 pm the Council will continue the presentation. The Council outlined the topics they would like to touch on during this opportunity:

- 1) Sustainability and Willamette's historical mission – why it matters, past, present and future.
- 2) What the Council's accomplished so far
- 3) Where the Council may be going
- 4) What the Council asks of the Board and the Willamette community
- 5) Questions from the Board

Joe would like students to speak during the portion dealing with WU's historical mission, why it matters, past, present and future. Perhaps we could ask some of the students who were awarded Sustainability Grants to speak on this. Robin, Nadene and Jodi volunteered to help shape the vision for the presentation to the Board. We have much of the information already on hand and could create a packet of information for the Board members and hand it out at the beginning of the meeting for them to look over. It was suggested that a Powerpoint presentation would be helpful and minimize the handouts that needed to be made. We could then link our presentation to the Sustainability Council's website so Board members could later visit the site and go over what was said.

Members who will attend the Board Meeting: Joe, (Open) Faculty Member, Kiri Nelsen, Constance Adler, (Open) Sustainability Grant Recipient

Center Proposal:

The Commission on Excellence is not sure what the next step will be for Center proposals. The Commission will meet for the first time this semester on February 7th. The last of the three planned forums will take place on Thursday, January 26th from 3:00 – 5:00 pm in the Alumni Lounge. There will be lots of "policy" proposals on the agenda for the third forum. The shape and length of a proposal is still to be determined. If the Commission decides to ask for proposals the decision to do so will most likely come at the February 7th meeting. The Commission may choose to interview the Center candidates instead of asking for full proposals to be submitted. If this is the case, then the Council will need to decide how to respond to potential questions from the Commission. Questions that may need to be addressed include: the potential for Fairview funding, outreach to other candidates with similar Center proposals, how our Center proposal would fit with similar centers at other universities (i.e. Lewis and Clark's Kitzhaber Center, OSU's Institute for Natural Resources and the Center for Water and Environmental Sustainability Center - CWEST). The University of Oregon also has a

center and Portland State University has a proposal for a Sustainability Institute which will be focused on research. In addition, Portland Community College is proposing a center focused on community projects. The Kitzhaber Center is located in Lewis and Clark's Law School and has no teaching association, it seems to focus on research and grants. Nathan, Constance and Sue will research those Centers, Joe will draft a set of questions for them to answer about each institute so there is a way to compare and contrast. The Council will then revisit our teaching and research plan after we've seen and evaluated the information gathered on the other institutes.

Also, we'll need to identify those people here on campus whose proposals are similar to ours.

Campus Assessment:

Members of the Sustainability Council met with Jeff Eisenbarth to discuss the possibility of funding for a Campus Sustainability Assessment. They found out it may be possible to piggyback an environmental assessment with other assessments that the university is planning and contracting with Sodexho to perform. Jeff E. was in attendance and explained to the Council that Sodexho is a French company; they are one of the world's largest food service companies and they specialize in facilities management. Sodexho, in cooperation with the University, will help plan/craft and perform a complete operations assessment (staffing, purchasing, etc.) on a consultant basis. Currently, ADA, energy and maintenance assessments are planned and they can add an environmental assessment.

The cost of the currently planned assessment will be approximately \$100,000 for a year-long assessment with a promise of a \$100,000 savings in efficiency by the University. The assessment would begin on June 1st, to coincide with the new fiscal year.

The University recently had two surprise audits/reviews: a Department to Justice ADA audit and an OSHA Compliance review. Jeff E. explained that the university was told that 'their number just came up' and neither audit was in response to a particular complaint or violation.

Council members wondered if the University would meet the criteria for the International Standards of Operations (ISO) qualifications following the Sodexho assessment. This will be looked into.

The quality of the environmental piece of the assessment was questioned since Sodexho lacks expertise in this area. Jeff reassured everyone that Sodexho may contract out with environmental/energy experts for that part of the assessment to ensure the highest quality results.

Issues of equity and diversity were also mentioned. Jeff stated that we are in the driver's seat and he felt that Sodexho would be very receptive to our input. Robin and Kiri volunteered to be involved in shaping the environmental piece of the assessment.

This is a new marketing opportunity for Sodexo and WU would receive a large discount on the assessment costs (the assessment would normally cost 3 - 4 times what we are being charged if it were priced out individually).

Sodexo will visit campus in March to get a tour and discuss the full scope of the potential assessment.

(It should be noted that Bon Appetit will not be included in the Sodexo assessment, they will conduct their own internal audit as they are competitors of Sodexo and there are proprietary concerns.)

Internal Sustainability Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ):

Council members met with President Pelton on January 5th to discuss the internal SAQ. A list of 25-30 university leaders were identified to participate and questions have been tailored for the various areas to be covered. The internal SAQ is scheduled to take place on March 8th from 2:00 – 5:00 pm. Lee will send out invitations to the participants. The hope is that the SAQ will broaden the scope of sustainability on campus, produce good information and start a conversation on campus, and create collaboration for an external assessment. Constance and Jodi will help with the SAQ planning, Robin will facilitate. They will work on a script for how the session will run.

Open Forum Days:

The Sustainability Council will hold Open Forums on February 21st and April 11th. These sessions will be open to anyone on campus to attend and bring issues of concern/questions/ideas to the Council.

The next Sustainability Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 7th in the Alumni Lounge at 11:30 am.