

Sustainability Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, September 06, 2005

PRESENT:

Council members: Joe Bowersox, Karen Arabas, Nathan Sivers-Boyce, Jim Bauer, Sue Koger, Robin Morris-Collin, Jeff Eisenbarth, Elizabeth Seibert, Carl Hillig Kiri Nelson, Jennifer Roney.

Campus community members present: Constance Adler, Ron Nichols, Evan Beuchley

OLD BUSINESS:

Joe opened the meeting with a recap and update on several issues from the last meeting for those not able to attend and those that had to leave early.

Emblem: Joe explained that there were concerns raised by the Communication department as to the Sustainability emblem that was created. The Council decided at the last meeting to request a second design. Joe will meet with Chris Noud this afternoon to discuss ideas for a new design, the deadline for this new design will be October 15th.

Facilitation: At the last meeting, facilitation was discussed. The cost associated with hiring a facilitator and the desire to do the work in-house helped the Council determine that they would like to work together as a group to facilitate themselves without acquiring outside facilitation.

Sustainable Thinking: The Audubon Society has invited the Sustainability Council to co-sponsor the "Sustainable Thinking" event on November 2, 2005. They would like to use WU space for the event and have WU's participation as well. The date was of concern to many on the Council as it fell just days after Campus Sustainability Day. The Audubon Society is not able to move the date of the event as they have Secretary of State Bill Bradbury already committed to the event for that day/time. The Council worried the environmental stance of the event might exclude other parties with different focuses that wish to be involved.

Commission on Excellence: The relationship the Council will have with the Commission on Excellence was also discussed. The Commission on Excellence, co-chaired by Bob Dash, does not convene until September 20th. Ways to communicate ideas for a Center for Excellence in Sustainability were discussed. As the Commission is new and has yet to meet formally, it was difficult to determine what process the Commission would prefer (written outline of a proposal, sending a delegation to speak to them, etc). It was decided we should have a clearly defined vision of what we would like a 'Center' to look like before approaching the Commission. This vision could be the focus of a long or short-term working group in the weeks ahead.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council Openings:

Two openings are still available on the Sustainability Council. Student representatives from CLA and Law are currently needed. Joe will be meeting with the Vice President of ASWU to discuss finding a CLA rep and will ask for their suggestion on a suitable student. Robin mentioned that there are two student groups in the Law School: the Student Bar and the Environmental Law Society that a rep could be drawn from. She will approach them about selecting a law student.

Longhouse:

Rebecca Dobkins has approached the Council with her idea for a Longhouse (approximately 3000-5000 sq. ft) to be built on campus. She envisions it to be a multi-purpose facility capable of handling large dinners, formal meetings etc. She would hope it to be a ceremonial center for Native American students and communities of color on campus. Questions were raised as to whether the Council was interested in being involved with the idea as it moves forward and how the Long House and Community Garden planning would co-adapt. President Pelton has asked that discussion for a Longhouse be added to the agenda for the next Capital Planning meeting. If the idea is approved at that level, it would then be added to the Master Planning Process for future facilities. The ever-present issue of limited space on campus was raised and where a Longhouse would be built. Dean Long had mentioned at the Faculty Retreat that a new Academic building was planned in the next few years, which made people wonder how that would spatially impact the construction of a Longhouse. Joe suggested that an invitation should be extended to Rebecca to come speak to the Council to convey her ideas and answer questions. Joe will forward the letter he received from Rebecca to the Council members for review. The Council could possibly take a larger role in planning the Longhouse with the creation of a short/long term working group. The Facilities Master Planning Group (formerly the Campus Master Planning Committee) is charged with determining the appropriate location for all new facilities built on campus. To be added to the Capitol Planning list does not mean the idea is a priority or any commitment has been made for its construction by the university. It is merely a list to think over and discuss ideas. Since the Campus Master Plan is approximately 5 years old, it was time to revisit the plan and now is the time to discuss such ideas.

Marketing & Management Class:

Jennifer's Marketing and Management Class this semester will be working on various projects, including sustainability on campus. The class begins the problem formulation process today. The assignment includes aspects such as defining the needs of the Council, understanding the constituency involved, determining instruments for data collection and choosing the best study to meet the Sustainability Councils needs. She would like to see

them identify the Council's true needs, choose the best means to collect information, amass primary and secondary data, and write up and present their results by the first week of December. Jennifer is instructing the class to focus on the issues involved and not get caught up in the instruments they want to use. How can we promote sustainability better on campus? What parts of sustainability are most accessible to the campus community? What is WU's relationship with the outside community and their sustainability efforts? How can WU promote sustainability to a broader audience?

Working Groups:

Short-term vs. Long-term Working Groups still need to be defined. The Council spent the remainder of the meeting in small breakout groups according to their preference as to placement. Some possible topics for Short-term groups to address include developing new courses and conference workshops, while Long-term groups could address strategic planning and a future Center of Excellence in Sustainability.

Short-term: Karen, Jim, Keri, Sue, Jennifer

Long-term: Robin, Jeff, Carl, Nathan, Elizabeth

Both: Joe

Future Council Agenda Items:

- Flex Car/Zip Car concept
- Sustainability Newsletter (latest edition should be electronically distributed on 9/7/05. If someone would like to take over future publication and distribution of the newsletter, please let Joe know)

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 13th, 11:30 am, UC-Dining Room #1.