

Sustainability Council

Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2006

Present: Constance Adler, Karen Arabas, Joe Bowersox, Susan Chiapella, Sue Koger, Forrest Lindsay-McGinn, Jodi Lowes, Robin Morris Collin, Kiry Nelsen, Dean Wentworth, Theresa Somrak

Center Proposal:

No decisions have been made for any proposals or what the next steps will be for any of the proposals. It is possible that the Commission may come to those proposing new Centers and ask questions, but it is unlikely right now that we will need to submit anything further or anything of length. The Commission may take ownership of the proposals and pass them along to President Pelton to make decisions on the university's behalf rather than on individual's behalf. The Council felt uneasy about this as the original proposal we submitted was meant only as a draft and brainstorm of ideas and not meant to be a "final" or "one-shot" proposal covering everything we wanted to touch on in-depth.

Workshop Opportunity:

Doug McKenzie-Mohr, a trained psychologist who works to foster sustainability, will hold a workshop on "Community-based Social Marketing" on May 8-10th in Portland, Oregon. The introductory workshop will be on May 8th and the advanced workshop will be on May 9th and 10th. We will include this opportunity in the Sustainability Newsletter. It would be great if someone could go, but it is the week before WU's graduation. The Council may help underwrite a workshop fee if someone wanted to go. The fees, however, are expensive: \$245 (intro), \$545 (advanced) or \$745 (for both sessions).

SAQ Forum:

The SAQ Forum will take place from 2:00 – 5:00 pm in the Willson Room of Goudy Commons on Wednesday, March 8th. We'll have 22 people in attendance (many of which are new 'sustainability' faces). The plan for the day is to have President Pelton give a Welcome to the group, followed by self-introductions. Robin will ask each person to introduce themselves and respond to an open-ended question. Next will be discussion about the background of the sustainability movement at Willamette including a slideshow and Kat and Carl's assessment findings/presentation, this will be followed by the first break. Upon returning, the group will be divided into 3 breakout groups. Each group will work together and brainstorm and answer 3 questions, then the second break will take place. After the break, groups will report back and the forum will close with a game involving the 4E's.

Robin decided against using the formal SAQ data that was provided-- it was too data-oriented and she would like the forum to be more response-oriented. The responses from the forum will give us a good baseline.

Energy Conservation Task Force (ECTF):

Kiry, Constance and Jodi made a quick 3-minute movie depicting conservation methods for TIUA's Opening Days. The movie was shown to the Council and Joe will see if it can be streamed onto the web. Constance is working on training the new RA's for next year and Kiry is working on Opening Days, Forrest has written an editorial for the Collegian and it will appear in the March 8th issue, Jodi is gathering baseline information on water and electricity costs for the University. ECTF is also working on a campus campaign to reduce energy usage on campus. Kianna suggested a contest with prizes or gift certificates to the winner(s). The contest would be to create a logo or catchy saying that can be used as a screensaver, stickies on lights, bookmarks, etc and the winner would get a prize. LifeSource has agreed to help with the prize donation, in exchange perhaps we could offer them a table during Sustainability Month to help them promote their business or feature them along with other businesses/organizations in our community utilizing sustainable practices.

On Monday, March 13th, ECOS is sponsoring a Fair Trade event in the Montag Den at 7:00 pm. They will show a short movie on Fair Trade in the coffee industry and there will be free samples of fair trade coffees and teas.

Bon Appetit is working on a policy for being able to bring in your own mug and receiving a discount on your beverage. Bon Appetit needs to ensure that the policy will meet Health Code regulations, however. Council members encouraged others to write down their comments about a Bon Appetit "Bring your own Mug" policy (or the lack thereof) and place it in the Comment Box in Goudy, they also asked for student involvement in this initiative as students are the ones who most frequent Bon Appetit. Forrest spoke with one of the Bistro managers and they are receptive to the idea of "Bring 1 mug, Leave 1 mug" but not enthusiastic about it. They are skeptical and do not feel it would be very successful and any mugs returned would likely disappear again quickly.

The ECTF has been busy working on various projects and has not yet drawn up a budget for the Council, but they anticipate the only cost they will be incurring will be for the stickers/light reminders. The ECTF will also check with Physical Plant and Housekeeping to make sure that they have their approval before placing any stickers around campus, this will minimize the risk of them being taken down.

Campus Assessment:

The news on the campus assessment is not very good. The Sodexo assessment is no longer happening. Most likely an assessment will be done in-house in the next budget cycle (2007-2008). We still need to consider what we would like to have included and perhaps begin a process for RFP's for companies we'd like to use. We should offer a

conscious, thoughtful role in defining and implementing the process. Good Company is very flexible and has been known to incorporate students as interns in their assessments.

There was discussion about bringing in someone from a local firm that does assessments to discuss the process. However, there were questions raised regarding potential conflicts of interest.

The Assessment would provide a framework and create systems for the university to begin implementing. It could then be updated, but not annually. Long-term maintenance of the Assessment could be something a Center for Sustainable Communities would handle.

Sustainability Month:

April is Sustainability Month. We have money on hand for speakers. Possible topics include cultural sustainability practices (Katrina Barber) and soil erosion in Guatemala. ECOS has signed on to Sustainability Month. Is Bon Appetit aware of Sustainability Month? The Council will check with them to see if they'd like to have an awareness event during April. The ECTF would like to launch their logo during Sustainability Month. The Oregon Garden is also having an Earth Day event on April 22nd.

The next Sustainability Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 21st at 11:30 am in the Alumni Lounge, 3rd floor of the UC.