

Sustainability Council Meeting Minutes

August 30, 2005

SC members Present: Karen Arabas, Joe Bowersox, Sue Koger, Robin Morris-Collin, Jennifer Roney, Nathan Sivers-Boyce.

Campus community members present: Frances Chapple, Kendra Mingo, Susan Smith.

Agenda:

- Campus Sustainability Day (Karen)
- Mini Grant RFP (Robin)
- Spring Sustainability Conference (Jennifer)
- Working Groups (All)

Spring Conference:

The meeting began with a discussion of the Spring Conference. The event currently has been broadly defined and Jennifer began the discussion by asking for ideas to narrow down the scope and get a better idea of what the Council would like to see included in the Conference. She is hoping to establish a working committee and asked for suggestions on possible members. Many ideas for the conference were discussed including:

- Bringing in the greater WU and Salem communities and inviting other area universities.
- Possibly seeking a partnership for the event with the ICL group.
- Showcasing the Sustainability Mini Grant along with projects and documents the Council has completed.
- Welcoming businesses from the community that are practicing sustainability
- Having a series of breakout sessions on various topics, perhaps centered around the 4 E's.
- Setting up demos or booths for vendors and student projects
- Offering grants to elementary and secondary schools to generate interest, identifying prospective students possibly by way of a poster contest and/or including activities to involve children and trying to coordinate the conference date with the district's in-service days to maximize attendance.

The Council would like to make sure the conference has something for everyone, keep the event broad and inclusive while still keeping the ideas in line with the scope of the event and not try to 'over do it' for the first conference. A working group/committee will be created to help refine the individual areas listed above. It would be nice to have a representative from the School of Ed on the committee. Jennifer would like the committee to include 5-8 members. The group would initially include those who attended the retreat and later, as the group grows, add others members with an interest or background in sustainability and even possibly community or business members.

The idea of having a keynote speaker was also discussed. The Council had a mixed reaction to the idea. Other options that were discussed were having an expert speak or a utilizing a panel discussion or featuring a 'anti-hero' speaker. The group liked the idea of inviting students from the 21st Century Schoolhouse who have been working on sustainability projects and the student from the Portland-area student who was recognized recently for her work using water plants to purify drinking water for impoverished countries. Also discussed was Portland author Jim Lynch who's receiving rave reviews for his book "The Highest Tide" influenced by Rachel Carson and set in the Pacific Northwest.

Campus Sustainability Day:

Campus Sustainability Day is set for October 26th. Bob Collin will be heading up the planning for this event. Jennifer and Bob will confer as to the agendas for Sustainability Day and the Spring Conference so overlap does not occur.

Facilitator's Update:

The working papers from the retreat will be posted on the Sustainability website. The question of inviting feedback via a blog or some other means was discussed. The consensus was that the papers will be posted but that electronic feedback is less desirable than a possible future forum or open council meetings. The facilitators are writing introductions to their papers with links for viewing the entire paper. For uniformity, the facilitators are keeping a consistent format for all their introductions.

Mini Grants:

A framework for the mini grants was created by Robin, which includes modeling values of sustainability, identifying the grant's target audience and more. The framework helps prepare expectations and generate a better grant. There is approximately \$4000 total available for the grants. Discussion centered around whether it was best to make more grants available with smaller funding amounts OR make fewer grants available with larger funding amounts. The Council decided it was best to make more grants available for smaller amounts and to view the grants as "seed money." It will be stated in the application that applicants should specify an amount they would like to request (between \$150 - \$300). The Council will keep within that range for dispersing the grant money. The idea of preference being given to 'partnered' projects was discussed. Some felt this may scare away potential applicants new to the grant process or unfamiliar with other funding sources. It was decided that a budget will need to be enclosed along with the application and if other funding is expected it should be noted in the budget. Students will be encouraged to apply in cooperation with the Carson Grant as long as there are no stipulations to the contrary in the Carson. The Council feels it is very important that each applicant receive a response from us regardless of whether they receive funding. The council would like to help facilitate finding other funding sources for applicants that will not be receiving a mini-grant. The grant RFPs will be going out by September 15th and it

is anticipated that the return dates will be mid-October, thus allowing for announcement of the grant winners by Campus Sustainability Day (October 26th).

Working Groups:

Joe asked if people had a preference as to whether they wanted to serve on a long-term or short-term working group. Some had preferences (Robin and Nathan preferred long-term, while Sue K. and Jennifer preferred short-term). The Council felt it was important to first define the working groups and their responsibilities, determine and assign projects and timelines, etc. before people committed.

New Business:

Facilitation – The possibility of having an outside facilitator brought in to help with Council meetings and foster a relationship between the Council and the greater Salem community was talked about. It was hard to justify the expense of a facilitator and would be difficult to do until an agenda was set for the year. As we are the WU Sustainability Council, many felt it was important for the council to set a good example of facilitation.

Sustainable Thinking Summit – Tuesday, November 2nd, 6:30 – 9:00 pm. The summit will be held in Salem and we have been asked to consider co-hosting the event. Currently committed to the summit are: League of Women’s Voters, Oregon League of Conservation Voters, Sustainable Fairview, Friends of Marion County and 1000 Friends of Oregon. There was concern that this date fell very close to our Campus Sustainability Day and that we might be overextending if we tried to do both in the span of a week.

Emblem – A Sustainability emblem was created by Carl and Andrea Carlson depicting a compass with the 4 E’s as the outer points. The Communications department strongly objects to the use of the emblem as it would diminish the branding of the current WU logo and they fear other sanctioned groups on campus would knock off or imitate the logo. The Council decided to allow Communications to re-do the logo and see if they could come up with another design that was acceptable to all. Communications has asked for a 6 week lead time for this. Joe agreed to continue to be the point person for the emblem and work with Communications to find an acceptable emblem.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, September 6th, 11:30 am, UC – Dining Room #1. We have Dining Room #1 reserved for every Tuesday at 11:30 am this semester for meetings. The next meeting will be spent discussing Council business for half the meeting and the other half will be break out sessions within the work groups (work groups will be created this week).