

Sustainability Committee Minutes
14 December 2009 Wednesday
Keith Room, Lang Center, 11:30 am

Attending: Eric Chaing, Nicole Lewis, Eric Wagner, David Burgy, Mark Davis, Maurice Eldridge, Nadine Kolowrat, Rebecca Ringle, Camille Robertson, Debra Kardon-Brown, Amanda Bayer, Carr Everbach; Ralph Thayer, Kendall Johnson, Evelyn Strombom (arrived late; abstained from voting)

Carr began by reading an email exchange between Maurice Eldridge and Nate Erskine, Student Council chair, who had expressed disappointment that Student Council was not more involved in the establishment of priorities for allocations of the Revolving Fund for Resource Conservation. Following a brief discussion about what the Sustainability Committee could have done to include Student Council better in its discussions, Carr called for a show-of-hands vote about whether to postpone consideration of the allocations until next semester. The vote was unanimous to move forward with such considerations, with members noting that delay in voting for the allocations would set back the projects' implementations over Winter Break.

Carr then read each proposed allocation priority in order and opened discussion on its pros and cons. Following such discussion, a show-of-hands vote was taken. Since in each case the vote was unanimous approval, in these minutes the final allocations are listed below with discussion details (if any) following:

Priority 1: \$5500 for Organic Lawn Care for the 5 acres of lawn between Mertz and MacGill Walk. Estimated payback time: 8 years but with vendor participation and help from student groups, may be shorter. Funding would provide \$3000 for soil testing and planning with a consultant, and \$2500 for the marginal increase in costs over the first 2 years. Lawn should reach new level of adaptation within about 5 years. Responsible: Jeff Jabco (Director of Grounds) with liaison Nicole Lewis.

Priority 2: \$10,000 toward replacement of 6-watt decorative lamps in the "Wagon Wheel" architectural fixtures in Sharples Dining Hall with 1.9-watt LED lamps. Estimated payback time 5.5 years based on electricity saved, bulb replacement costs, and labor. The goal is to replace about 1000 of the 2000 bulbs in 2010 using this allocation plus \$6000 from the Lorax Fund and about \$8000 from the Carbon-Free Alumni Weekend fund, for a total of \$24,000 toward the estimated \$48,000 total cost. Every other fixture would undergo bulb replacements in early 2010, with hopes to do the other half when more funds become available in 2011 or 2012. Responsible: Ralph Thayer.

Discussion addressed the issue of replacing the fixtures themselves, but Ralph argued that such a change would involve hiring an architect and therefore would not be cost-effective. Maurice noted that Sharples may eventually have to be expanded, and that there would be an opportunity for changing the fixtures because an architect would be engaged. The three-step lighting plans of 10 years or so ago mentioned by Linda in a previous meeting involved soffit lighting and not the wagon-wheel fixtures.

Priority 3: \$10,000 toward replacement of T-12, 40-watt fluorescent lamps with 28-watt T-8 bulbs in fixtures all over campus. Estimated payback time: less than 2 years based on electricity savings. Responsible: Ralph Thayer.

Ralph will look into the possibility of donating the still-useful T-12 bulbs to the WSSD or Chester School Districts, since we currently pay for the recycling of all replaced bulbs.

Priority 4: \$3,000 toward installation of light-sensing switches in hallways/foyer areas with large window openings. The hall lights would turn on when natural light fell below a set threshold. Payback time is estimated at several years, but would depend on location. This allocation should fund approximately 12 such installations, which performance can be tracked as an experiment. Responsible: Ralph Thayer and Carr Everbach (for performance quantification).

Debra noted that Learning for Life, as well as student environmental groups, could be useful in identifying promising locations (a “treasure hunt”). Debra will bring this up at the Learning for Life meeting that evening. A rough timeline for implementation of the sensors would be about one year.

Priority 5: \$5,000 toward installation of occupancy sensors/switches in bathrooms. Bathrooms that either have no light switch or have lights that are often left on will be first to be retrofitted with occupancy sensors. Along with sensor/switch installation, a signage campaign will seek to involve occupants in increasing personal responsibility for manually turning off light switches. Estimated payback time: 3 years. Responsible: Ralph Thayer.

Again, a “treasure hunt” among community members to identify promising locations was proposed. Nadine noted that, once locations are identified, this item is an opportunity for matching gifts to continue funding past the \$5,000 allocation.

Priority 6: \$6,000 for print-release software/hardware that would be implemented in all public printing areas. This estimated cost will be updated by ITS as investigations continue, but payback times are estimated around 3 years based upon paper/toner costs saved. ITS will confer with the Public Computing Committee regarding the implementation details and interaction/outreach with the campus community. Responsible: Gayle Barton, liaison Mark Davis.

Mark noted that the McCabe printers alone printed over 4 million pages during the last four semesters. However, he emphasized that the proposed print-release software is just to regulate unwanted copies, not a step toward rationing. Since other ITS initiatives are in the queue ahead of this item, it may take one to two years for full implementation. Carr suggested beginning implementation with a smaller printer outlet than McCabe, and see how it works and what objections arise. This initiative is about changing people’s habits (including professors’ expectations about students’ printing PDF textbooks from Blackboard). There is likely to be some controversy and ITS will undoubtedly experience implementation hassles.

*After further investigation into the licensing terms of the current print-release software being utilized in our Beardsley Media Center, it appears that the software (Paper-cuts) which ITS has already purchased, allows us to use it campus wide at no additional charge. The software agreement also includes a release station. The software was purchased by ITS for around \$1300 and seems to meet our current and future needs. This being said, the proposal to use the Revolving Green Fund for this initiative is not longer needed. ITS will continue to keep the Committee updated and seeks its input as we move forward with conservation initiative.

Priority 7: \$4,000 for drying lockers in several dormitory laundry rooms. An alternative to clotheslines or drying racks, large lockers with louvered doors that close will be installed at several test locations on campus. Corrugated aluminum pipes from existing electric dryers to the outside

will be directed through bottom of the closets to supply them with waste heat, and suction from rising hot air will ensure sufficient circulation. Estimated payback time from saved electricity (reduced use of electric dryers): 5 years. Responsible: Ralph Thayer and Carr Everbach (system design).

Carr admitted that this item is the most experimental and its payback rate the most speculative. As a novel idea, it has public education potential, but unknown pitfalls. Initially, two laundry rooms would be chosen for implementation, guided by student groups' input.

Priority 8: Any unallocated funds shall be directed towards vending machine issues ("Vending Mizers" that turn off internal lights; machines that crush cans and produce a receipt) or other good ideas, in consultation with Student Council. Responsible: Ralph Thayer and Student Council president.

This item was amended with the clause "or other good ideas" to allow flexibility. Ralph will help coordinate the vending machine improvements, and Student Council can advise if this is the best use of residual funds. Due to the fact the many allotments have costs that are approximate, the final total of residual allocations will become more clear as implementation begins over Winter Break.

Carr asked that members send him their known blackout days/times for Spring Semester 2010. A full meeting schedule, with alternating open meetings is expected by the end of January.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carr Everbach