

Sustainability Committee Minutes

16 March 2009

Attending: Kelsey Hatzell, Mike Roswell, Nick Buttino (Notes), Carr Everbach (agenda), Maurice Eldridge, Ralph Thayer, Eric Wagner, Nadine Kolowart, H.G. Chissell, Joy Charlton

Need to add H.G. and fix Linda McDougall's name on website (done by Rebecca subsequently)

Request that entire committee to look over minutes for review (sent out by email prior to meeting)

Letter from WWF about Earth Hour 2009. Turn off all non-essential lighting 28 March 2009, 8:30 pm – 9:30 pm. What if anything is Swarthmore going to toward this effort? Fear expressed that people will use flashlights (waste electricity) and candles and cause fires. We will issue a statement (Maurice) giving information and recommending (optional) participation and listing things that the College is doing to honor this effort. Inform people not to do anything foolish; Ralph can have some pathway lights turned off (manually). Eric will make sure no unnecessary athletic lights are on (e.g. stadium). However, need to maintain some lights for safety.

Thank you to Maurice about sending the GreenMarch emails

Montclair State founding an environmental Ph.D. program. There is a rising tide of Sustainability and Swarthmore should track this.

AICUP Campus Energy Efficiency Training is going forward (even with fewer schools). A team of people from Swarthmore will join >10 other schools for energy audits on regional campuses (including ours).

Jeff Jabco wants to reroof LPAC with a green roof. Pennsylvania Growing Greener grant was turned down – economic stimulus money may still allow us to move forward if we build first

Review of Peter Raven's talk March 15, 2009, from Scott Arboretum award. Dr. Raven teaches at Washington University in St. Louis, MO, and runs the Botanical Garden there. He worked with Paul Ehrlich as one of the "band of brothers" in the 1960s and 1970s, and has been tracking mass extinctions of plants because of global warming. His acceptance speech at the Scott Medal ceremony had recommendations for Swarthmore, including hiring a sustainability officer and following the student "Greening of Swarthmore" document (2007). SusCom will recommend him as Lang Professor for 2011; Carr and Nadine will put together a formal letter of request to be signed by Maurice, Stu, and SusCom co-chairs. Carr has copies of Dr. Raven's slides, as does Claire Sawyers (Arboretum) with permission to use them locally for educational purposes.

Discussion of Eric's formal proposal to COFP to make SusCom a standing committee

- List of recommendations for future committee composition
- Largely follow as drafted, but both grounds and facilities should have members
- Adding Lang center staff member explicitly
- Is it important that 7 people (half of committee) will be staff members of some kind?
- Internal governance does not need to be part of COFP's charge, but perhaps it would be good to document our thinking in some way for future SusComs. Discussion on using Roberts Rules and formal voting, ending in consensus on adopting Parliamentary procedures when (rarely) necessary?

Annual All-Staff meeting tomorrow afternoon

- Carr will speak for 15 minutes, take questions for 15 minutes
- Not a gloom-and-doom talk about environmental problems, rather, enlist staff in grand adventure to restore values of Swarthmore conservation
- Let staff know of our existence and that we are receptive to ideas
- Context and background as to why this important
- Trim wastefulness
- Explaining Earth Hour
- Focus of talk is about communication among community members
- Empowering staff to do things (giving them authority to help is useful)

Next SusCom meeting on Friday, 20 March 2009 at 11:30am (Lang Center)