

Sustainability Committee Minutes 26 January 2009

Attending:

Eric Wagner
Joy Charlton
Liz Haegele
Kelsey Hatzell
Rebecca Ringle
Nadine Kolowrat
Nick Buttino (recorder)
Mike Roswell
Ralph Thayer
Carr Everbach

Meeting Scheduling for Spring 2009 semester:

Decision not to schedule meeting during faculty meetings. Next meeting on Friday (30 January) 11:30 am -12:30 pm in Lang Center. Schedule for remaining meetings follows this pattern: Monday then Friday of same week, then skip a week. Specific dates for your calendars:

Monday, Feb. 9, 2009: 11:30 am — 12:30 pm in Lang Center
Friday, Feb. 13, 2009: 11:30 am – 12:30 pm in Lang Center
Monday, Feb. 23, 2009: 11:30 am — 12:30 pm in Lang Center
Friday, Feb. 27, 2009: 11:30 am – 12:30 pm in Lang Center
Monday, Mar. 16, 2009: 11:30 am — 12:30 pm in Lang Center
Friday, Mar. 20, 2009: 11:30 am – 12:30 pm in Lang Center
Monday, Mar. 30, 2009: 11:30 am — 12:30 pm in Lang Center
Friday, Apr. 3, 2009: 11:30 am – 12:30 pm in Lang Center
Monday, Apr. 13, 2009: 11:30 am — 12:30 pm in Lang Center
Friday, Apr. 17, 2009: 11:30 am – 12:30 pm in Lang Center
Monday, Apr. 27, 2009: 11:30 am — 12:30 pm in Lang Center
Friday, May. 1, 2009: 11:30 am – 12:30 pm in Lang Center
Reading and Finals Periods: TBA

Committee Personnel:

Should we permanently invite H.G. Chissell?

Alum constantly engaged in sustainability issues

Amiable personality

We had previously spoken of an alumni representative, but decided not to offer invitation yet.

Precedent for alumni member from Land Use planning committee.

Committee approves invitation.

Carr has been invited to speak to all-staff meeting about sustainability in early March: date to be determined.

Faculty lunches now have no water bottles, metal cutlery, and composting of plates by GoodFood Group

Main Meeting Topic: the Sustainability Committee's new website:

<http://www.swarthmore.edu/x21356.xml>

Committee largely in approval of website.

To what extent should link with Greening Swarthmore website?

Greening Swarthmore as homepage that provides background

SusCom members should direct suggestions to Rebecca Ringle, who will then discuss them with Stacey Kutish

Recommendations as link from Mission statement

Should we include minutes on website?

How much is confidential?

To what risks do we expose ourselves?

If not, how can we insure visibility and accountability?

Decision to include minutes, but be mindful of potential

consequences

Greenbox suggestions:

Post most reasonable suggestions, and then we discuss in

committee

Charge from Al Bloom is to solicit and act on suggestions

Posting suggestions acknowledges that we have heard them

We do not have time to act on, or even discuss, all

suggestions; must establish priorities if we are to accomplish goals

Add email contact so that people that people can respond to posted GreenBox notes (in case people know extra information).

"Greening of Swarthmore" website is the hub of resources for greening actions (not SusCom)

Vote to make website live? YES

Description of Rebecca Ringle's job

Lang Center Intern for SusCom

Link with other Lang center initiatives

Work with Stacy Kutish on website

Coordinating student group sustainability via Green Symposium meetings

Funded by Lang Center grant

New Business:

Response to letter from Ben Dair and Elizabeth Crampton

Worked as externs at (respectively) UC and Harvard sustainability office

Letter requests for more accountability mechanisms?

Request beyond on our charge (from president Bloom) for sustainability (stated by Carr)

We cannot make statements for accountability until next president gives us the authority to do so (Carr)

Question of who is going to fund commitments (Ralph)

Could Lorax offer these funds?

Not sufficient in amount, and directed at facilities.

Students are interested in accessing Lorax fund, but too small for use (Carr)

Fund only puts out about \$4,000 per year

Ideally fund will expand with time.

Funder desired that role funds should go into Stu Hain's budget

Currently going towards purchased for reducing carbon, e.g., compact florescent lights distributed to students

Consideration that we should hear from Liz and Ben, but we do not have authority to implement requested accountability mechanisms.

Invitation to be issued to Ben and Liz to present to us, ideally at meeting Monday, Feb 23, 2009, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm.

What is agenda for this semester?

Need to prioritize which suggestions we should implement and how.

Next meeting to set this agenda (Friday)

At the end of May we must write report on what we have done and how successful these actions were.

We will know identity of new president by next board meeting (in mid-February)

How can we meet with this new person, and when?

Receive direction from Maurice

Report from Ralph and Nadine:

AICUP – Association of Independent Colleges of Pennsylvania

Later discussion from initiatives from facilities

Give Ralph floor to speak on where we are now.

AICUP looks at ways for university to pool resources

Recent initiative to train people to be energy auditors.

Re-evaluation of buildings tends to pay off in reduced \$\$ and carbon

Ex. audit on science center last semester suggests lighting changes to save money

AICUP needs critical mass of agreeing schools to move forward

We have already agreed to join if it starts

\$4,000 school contribution to allow this partnership (and \$5,000 donor match) – both in hand so formal letter of interest already sent to AICUP

Administrative commitment demonstrated by taking funds from President's office, not Facilities budget

Final Announcements:

Cooper foundation grant applications now available – deadline Feb. 23

Nadine happy to work with anyone who wants to bring a speaker

Most powerful if student involved and circular link

Carr regrets that SusCom did not make much progress on identifying Lang Professors

Need to work for future professorships.

Next meeting on Friday (Jan 30) at 11:30 — 12:30 pm in Lang Center.