

## **Sustainability Committee Minutes**

30 March 2009 Monday

Attending: Ralph Thayer (agenda), Linda McDougall, Eric Wagner, Nadine Kolowrat, Nick Buttino (notes), Kelsey Hatzell

Carr and Rebecca are attending a parallel meeting with the Assistant Director of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, the consultants from Temple University (Ambler) Jeff Featherstone and Bradley Flamm, and their graduate student Chloe Maher to discuss methodologies for greenhouse gas inventory funded by PA-Dept. of Environmental Protection. Carr will report at Friday's SusCom meeting.

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

More to add about our mission? Should document expand on the one sentence?

Add what we have done to the letter? Conclusion to reinforce what we have already done. If SusCom is not approved as a standing committee – what happens to the committee? Request that president Chopp continue us an ad hoc committee? Yes.

We expect to finalize this document by this Friday's meeting [draft attached]

### **Questions about what to do with Greenbox suggestions**

Many suggestions addressed to Grounds, Facilities, and Dining Services

Only individual members can answer these things – not necessarily the whole committee. We should combine similar questions and give one answer

Long discussion on how to break up Greenbox responses. Linda and Ralph would like to view and respond to suggestions, then get committee's comments before publishing them. [this was later accomplished and circulated via email]

### **AICUP Energy Efficiency Program**

Training sessions planned to start June 2009; Campus assessments start in August

Proceeding with letter to Dr. Raven (Missouri botanical garden) investigating his interest and availability for a Lang Visiting Professor position '11-'12

### **Brief discussion of EarthHour result**

We may be able to monitor energy usage better

Sustainability Report Card is being engaged this year

Next SusCom meeting on Friday, 3 April 2009 at 11:30am (Lang Center) – Patti Shields of Environmental Services (EVS) will come and speak about their efforts

To: Committee on Faculty Procedures

From: Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee, Carr Everbach & Ralph Thayer, Co-Chairs

Date: March 16, 2009

Re: Creation of Standing Sustainability Committee

### **Proposal to make Sustainability Committee a standing committee of the College**

This proposal seeks to have the Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee (“SusCom”) promoted to standing committee status beginning in the 2009-2010 academic year. SusCom was established in 2008 as an ad hoc committee under the aegis of the Office of the President. The committee’s initial charge was to make recommendations on issues of environmental sustainability, but since SusCom’s inception, the committee has also sought to add value to community-wide discussions regarding the sustainable use of resources; educate faculty, students, and staff about sustainability; and contribute solutions through innovation and example. SusCom has also promoted action and accountability on these issues via SusCom member Maurice Eldridge’s all-campus emails, SusCom member Carr Everbach’s presentations to the College community, and the establishment of a website: <http://www.swarthmore.edu/suscom.xml>. SusCom has also secured funding to enable Swarthmore to participate in a Pennsylvania Energy Management Collaborative.

SusCom’s earliest efforts included bringing a number of sustainability experts to campus (Oberlin’s David Orr and two alums who are sustainability directors, one for the University of California system, the other for the city of Philadelphia), and inviting a broad representation of College stakeholders to meetings to describe efforts already underway and of possible future best practices. In AY08-09 SusCom began soliciting suggestions from community members via a physical, email, and website location called the GreenBox; these suggestions are posted on the website, along with comments from the Committee about implementation. SusCom also began making preliminary recommendations and suggestions to the Administration and the larger community, prioritizing low-cost actions.

Now, as a new era of leadership emerges at the College, it is imperative that issues of sustainability have a regular, permanent voice on campus. This proposal respectfully requests that COFP give its approval for SusCom to become that voice.

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### **Membership**

In order to insure a broad cross-section of the College’s constituent groups, SusCom shall be comprised of at least 15 members as follows:

**4 members from the faculty** – one of which shall be the Co-Chair\*

**1 member from the Lang Center**

**5 members from the staff** – one of which shall be the Co-Chair\*

1 from Facilities

1 from Grounds/Arboretum

1 from the Dean of Residence Life's office

1 from Dining Services

1 other member of the staff

**3 students**

1 Lang Center Intern

2 students selected by Student Council

**1 member from the President's Staff**

**1 member from the alumni**

\*Upon such time as a Sustainability Director of the College is hired, the Sustainability Director shall assume the position of Chair of the SusCom.