

## Sustainability Committee Minutes

3 April 2009 Friday

Attending: Rebecca Ringle, Linda McDougall, Ralph Thayer, Nick Buttino (Notes), Carr Everbach (agenda), Patti Shields – director of Environmental Services EVS (invited guest), Maurice Eldridge, Kelsey Hatzel, Nadine Kolowrat, Joy Charlton

Final review of letter to COFP [letter sent the following week to COFP in response to its request of faculty concerning which committees are available]. Future governance issues will be written as an internal SusCom memorandum, not part of the COFP proposal. Committee will be heavy on staff, which are not COFP's purview. Rather, the President's office makes staff appointments, and Student Council makes student appointments.

Motion to put Ralph and Linda's responses to specific GreenBox suggestions on SusCom website. Website will specify who has answered the questions, e.g. "*(from Dining Services)*." Having knowledgeable people answer these questions is one of the best uses for the committee.

A discussion of GreenMarch and its potential success noted the problem of lack of monitoring of the results. There is still some grey area where we might have gotten some useful responses. EVS has made some comments to the Earthlust and Green Advisor organizers of suggestions to improve awareness. How should we be monitoring any of these efforts? Ralph noted that the campus actually increased electricity use (perhaps insignificantly) during EarthHour (several SusCom members forgot until it was too late, but Carr noted flashlight tag on campus during the blackout). Does SusCom run danger of greenwashing when we say events are a success without being able to measure the success? Is "consciousness-raising" itself a success, and how can it be measured?

Board committee has requested a SusCom proposal to earmark a portion of endowment for sustainability initiatives. If the endowment held physical assets that would guarantee a return (e.g., energy savings of replacement windows), that would be a radical break with past practice and that of other institutions. On the other hand, what does it mean for the college not to be able to afford replacement windows that will definitely save money in the long run? Carr will look into writing the proposal after he has conferred with business folks.

### **Patti Shields (Director of EVS) invited to speak to SusCom about EVS efforts.**

- EVS has not been invited to talk to students in the Fall info gathering.
- 3rd shift (midnight to dawn) takes recycling very seriously.
- Michael Robinson (new staff member) is doing good job down at Field House, has worked with Eric Wagner on recycling initiatives there.

- Over the past year and half, EVS has been changing to Hillyard green products (especially cleansers). Still some limitations, however: green disinfectants are not yet available, but we need them. Paint strippers are not effective if “green.”
- EVS employees do not ever need to contact chemicals
- Toilet paper and towels are from 100% recycled products
- Switching entirely to roll towel dispensers (from C-fold) to minimize waste (people never take just one C-fold towel, and they are often used for napkins)
- In order to solve problems, EVS managers need to know the locations. For example, need to know where perceived recycling problems occur, but people are reluctant to report them because the fear EVS staff will get in trouble. In one incident, students were concerned that an EVS staffer was throwing bags of recycling into the trash, but did not want to get him in trouble. Upon investigation, the staffer was merely using the rolling bin to transport both the trash bags and recycling bags to the parking lot, where he put the bags into the appropriate dumpsters. Need to get rid of perception problem that recycling does not happen properly; need to give people the correct information so that they have good faith in conservation.
- Even staff from EVS and Dining services worry that dumpsters are mixed by sanitation/recycling companies
- Motion to post recycling totals on SusCom website every for year (and previous years). Could put near greenbox on the dashboard?
- Links to SusCom website also should be posted near Greenbox link
- Stacey Kudish is computer person for changing general websites, but Rebecca can make changes for our site
- Suggestion to add to our website and to have Maurice circulate an email a statement to all students-faculty-staff on recycling program and its effectiveness. More visible way to do things during EVS process? For instance, produce stickers that flag bags as recycling or “contaminated” recycling and are applied by EVS during their collecting.
- Dashboard link to recycling information. May also be part of Education component of SusCom website to be added by Rebecca during summer 2009.
- Idea to have EVS talk with green advisors for next year

Engineering department has devices to monitor energy draw from appliances called Kill-A-Watt meters. Any group or student can check them out (see Carr).

Next Meeting – 11:30-12:30 Lang Center -- Monday, 13 April 2009