

Sustainability Committee Minutes  
11/11/16

**Attendance:** Carr Everbach, Eric Wagner, Melissa Tier (notetaker), Nathan Graf (notetaker), Ralph Thayer, Sheila Magee, Sierra Spencer, Tao Wang

## **Working Group Check-Ins**

### *Food Initiatives*

- Started last year, stemming from developments with the Good Food Project; now solidified as a larger working group. Has already met three times this semester. Its purpose is to keep key stakeholders informed of progress on a variety of interrelated projects, including:
  - The Good Food Project
    - The club will have a Green Initiatives Fund updates & proposal for the December SusCom meeting.
  - The Our Food and other food-related courses
    - There is huge student interest in 'Our Food' & it will be taught again in the Spring.
  - A new food garden in development with NPPR
    - Big questions to work on are which students will support the garden and how it will be managed over summers, etc.
  - A first-year student who wants to develop a series of aquaponics projects
- Goal is by next year to have a clear network of four campus food gardens (Good Food, Our Food, NPPR garden, and the Scott Arboretum garden at Yale & Harvard Ave), with standardized signage and information online about each.

### *Waste System*

- There are already quite a few people working on waste (two President's Sustainability Research Fellows, Office of Sustainability, iSpring consultants), but desire to formalize a working group led by a SusCom representative.
  - How should we populate this working group, and others?
  - The Fellows have conducted a waste characterization study through the waste audit in September and other research. They are starting to put together a list of recommended improvements.

### *Green Initiatives Fund*

- We are creating rounds for proposals - the first deadline is just after Thanksgiving. Once the working reviews proposals and receives updates from applicants, the full SusCom will review each proposal in December.
- Proposal due dates for the Spring will be announced at the end of this semester.

- Should be widely advertised to attract applicants.
- Need at least one more SusCom member to sit on this working group.
- Is this group really a working group (and therefore open to the community), or a sub-committee with restricted attendance?
- Interest in someone writing a proposal to expand the solar, EV charging station to the north end of campus.
- Sierra will present a summary of her summer showerheads research at the December meeting.

### STARS

- Similar to the waste group, there are two PSRF students working on STARS in collaboration with many campus partners; Eric is serving as a SusCom liaison to the group.
- The Fellows are making strong progress, but having some difficulties with items that require faculty attention (e.g., what faculty research is happening, what courses have sustainability themes, judgement calls that require discussion with faculty, etc.)
  - Carr will try to communicate more directly with faculty about these questions.
- They also have a number of questions about HR-related things and will be speaking to Pamela Prescod-Ceasar soon.
- They've set a goal for themselves to finish data collection by the first week of December.
  - Some items should be brought to SusCom for further discussion.
- The students' goal is not just to capture a snapshot of this year, but also to collect data systematically so that the process can be more easily replicated in the future.
  - It's important that we complete STARS so that we can get included in lists of sustainable colleges.

### SusCom & Working Group Membership

#### *Current Working Groups*

- Sierra can join the waste working group.
  - She will be abroad in the Spring; need to communicate to SGO that we'll need another student.
- The food working group does not have Fellows assigned in the same way that waste & STARS do, but there is a Fellow working on behavior change focused on food.
- Linda and other Dining Services folks will be invited to future meetings of the food group.

#### *Potential Future Working Groups*

- Landscape
- Behavior change
- Energy?
- How do we deal with a working group disbanding? How do we recognize a new group?
  - Working groups within the Ecosphere structure don't just fall under SusCom.

- But many of them do, and leadership/direction from SusCom is valuable for all.
- The formalization of a working group is important to make efforts distinct from a club, project, etc.

#### *SusCom Structure*

- The Ecosphere diagram places SusCom in a position where we are a central hub for information, advice, deliberation, etc. We don't want SusCom to get too large, but we need to make sure that our meetings include everybody in the conversation.
- We still don't have representation from EVS, Capital Planning, Admissions, Advancement, Dean's Office, perhaps other offices.