

Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2016

10:40 am, Lang Center Keith Room

In attendance: Ben Berger, Carr Everbach, Deb Kardon-Brown, Eric Wagner, Melissa Tier (notetaker), Sheila Magee

Garnet Go Green

- Garnet Go Green presented recently at the faculty lunch
 - o Really got faculty thinking about waste reduction efforts in their departments
- The club will also be presenting soon at an Athletic teams meeting
- Largest environmental student group, besides the GAs
- They would like to organize a major zero-waste game each semester
 - o The club members can manage the organization; GAs can manage onsite composting

Telkonet Webinar

- Melissa & Carr just came from a meeting with an energy management tech company
 - o Aurora, Ralph, and others also attended
- The company provides occupancy-based controls, smart sensors, wireless technology
- The big question was whether there would be too much redundancy with our Siemens Energy Management System
- Company rep indicated very high ROI
- Potential for high feedback on individual-level behavior
 - o This could be key for the development of the Carbon Charge

BEP Project

- No sustainability consultants, unlike with the NPPR project
 - o Ballinger (the architecture firm) does not have sustainability expertise
- How can we ensure that there is compliance with the Sustainability Framework?
- Can we create a formal mechanism for SusCom to have more interaction with the individuals making major decisions, particularly on construction projects?
 - o Requests have gone out for Greg to be a guest at an upcoming SusCom meeting
 - o Aurora attends high-level BEP meetings, is a part of the 'core team'
 - But it would still be better to report to someone who is not a devoted sustainability staff member
 - o Is it possible to make recommendations more directly to Val or Greg?
 - Occasional attendance?
 - o Precedence of Maurice's attendance
 - Desire to always have Sustainability Director + 1 member of president's staff on SusCom

President's Sustainability Research Fellowship Program

- Major steps forward in past 2 weeks in development of this program, to be launched next fall
 - o Partnership among the Office of Sustainability, the Environmental Studies program, and the Lang Center
- Val is very supportive

- Still grappling with longstanding campus rule about credit or pay for students, but not both
 - o Current structure of the Fellowship is that the credit and pay are for different aspects of the program
 - The credit is for the course to be taught by Aurora & Betsy Bolton
 - The pay is for work done with staff mentors
 - o The case for providing both credit & pay is strengthened by the fact that we don't give credit just for experiential learning

Upcoming Sustainability Showcase

- The Office of Sustainability is planning an all-campus event tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of Friday, March 25
- The goals include to showcase the many different sustainability-themed projects and initiatives that have been occurring on campus, to network with others interested in continuing on with this work, and to establish the Office of Sustainability as a locus of information
- There will be a series of events, likely including:
 - o A poster/tabling session with lunch
 - o A more formal presentation period, with <5 minute presentations by each speaker, and possibly an artist/facilitator creating graphic notes
 - o Breakout sessions to discuss future directions
 - o A short report back from the breakout sessions
 - o Possibly a more fun, student-oriented activity to conclude
- The Office of Sustainability is hosting a lunch today for environmental student group leaders to recruit their involvement in the planning process

SusCom Working Groups

- Current:
 - o Green Initiatives Fund
 - o Waste
- Possibilities:
 - o STARS
 - There has been high interest in moving forward with a new STARS report, but not much action yet taken
 - Several student roles have been identified as possibilities to work on this: Environmentally-focused Lang Center Associates; a President's Sustainability Research Fellow next year; a possible summer intern in the Office of Sustainability
 - o Community outreach & publicity

End time 11:30

Respectfully submitted, Melissa Tier