

Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2015

9:30 am, Lang Center Seminar Room

In attendance: Carr Everbach, Deb Kardon-Brown, Eric Wagner, Giovanna Di Chiro, Jennifer James, Melissa Tier (notetaker), Ralph Thayer, Rebecca Griest, Sibelan Forrester, Tao Wang

Green Initiatives Fund Sub-Committee

Efficient Showerheads Proposal

- Replace showerheads in the athletic complex with water-conserving ones
 - Very cheap
 - Revenue generated from savings can be used to buy replacement showerheads in other campus locations
- Next steps:
 - Shane updating the proposal by Thanksgiving, Melissa will send out to full committee who will then send email responses via email
- Pilot program for both 1) showerheads in other locations and 2) other efficiency projects in athletics facilities
 - Waterless urinals, for example?

SusCom Comments & Questions

- What are plans for renovating the buildings?
 - We don't want to update items if the building will see a larger renovation
 - It's probably worth experimenting with waterless urinals, even if the building is renovated down the line, so that we learn about current technology
- Eric will work with Shane to start putting together a follow-up proposal to extend the project further
- We should make sure there's outreach about the current project
- We should have a test run of one showerhead with a sign saying what it is
 - In the dorms, if the shower pressure is not strong enough, students will unscrew the showerheads to get a stronger flow
- There have been problems recently with sports teams intentionally damaging/dismantling athletics facilities lights with timers
 - There were signs up describing the reason the lights were there, but they were still gone within a day or two
 - We need to let the coaches know that our showerheads project is occurring, and there needs to be a feedback loop of reporting problems

Good Food Garden Revamp

- The Good Food Project club is working with the Office of Sustainability on a series of ideas to revitalize the garden, including providing summer interns and improving the aesthetics of the space
 - One club member and several GAs are at the early stages of a Green Initiatives Fund proposal to request funds to buy fencing
 - They will likely submit the proposal early in the spring semester

SusCom Comments & Questions

- Potential for raised beds?
- Will the fence protect against small animals?

Waste Subcommittee

- Two questions moving forward:
 - What do we do with waste at the end of this academic year (instead of normal Trash2Treasure procedures)?
 - How do we change waste behavior/consumerism among students in the future?
- Rich Crespo of United Way (UW) made an offer:
 - If students categorize and bag the waste, then UW will bring trucks, provide storage, and run a sale at another location.
 - Gets rid of the waste this year, but may have negative effects on students' understanding of disappearing waste

SusCom Comments & Questions

- This clearly does not help with student behavioral change
 - The subcommittee discussed having a photography exhibit this year – taking pictures of the huge piles of waste may help connect students
- This proposal is for this year only – we will reconsider options for the following and subsequent years
 - There are limited alternatives for this year if we do not go with the UW proposal
- Long-term options (not mutually exclusive):
 - 1) college rents storage places and trucks with a sale each fall
 - 2) campus resale shop throughout the year
 - Supported by the GAs and the Office of Sustainability
 - Supported in part by the carbon tax
 - Where could this be located?
 - 3) changes to college policy in what is allowed in the dorms
- Need to speak to the Dean's office about what information goes out to students before arriving - Is it possible for us to advise the content of that letter?
- Greg has requested the Waste Subcommittee or GAs conduct an analysis on the cost of renting or buying approximately 1000 mini-fridges for students
 - There would be an initial cost to the college, but then we gain a level of control that is appealing plus we'd be recognizing that mini-fridges are now the norm in dorm rooms
 - This option does not address the culture of individualized convenience – we should think about a larger, longer plan that considers sharing durable electronics
 - Maybe NPPR can be a case example of banning mini-fridges?
- Can we utilize common summer readings/viewings to address sustainable behaviors? We could then bring the author to campus. Texts could be non-English too.
 - Faculty independence in topics they teach may conflict with this
 - This would be an invitation, not enforced
- Can there be a required sustainability course?
 - Sustainability was brought into Orientation for the first time this year and its presence will be stronger next year. The Office of Sustainability, with the help of

a GA working group, is also starting to develop a green certificate or badge option for community members who complete a certain series of tasks.

Climate Leadership Network (Melissa)

- The committee needs to decide on several options:
 - Sign the resilience commitment? If so, by January 1 (the deadline for original signatories) or at a later date?
 - Complete a GHG Inventory report this year? If so, by the January 15 deadline or should we request an extension?

SusCom Comments & Questions

- Are we biting off more than we can chew with a resilience commitment if we're not even confident about meeting our carbon neutrality target?
 - We'll definitely meet our original ACUPCC deadline through offsets & RECs – but what is the ask from Second Nature with this addition?
 - General sentiment that we are interested in the resilience commitment, but will wait until Second Nature provides more detailed information or until there are some strong examples from peer institutions
- Completing a GHG inventory feels rushed, but having those data compiled may serve useful if the Carbon Tax is formally brought to the Board in February
 - We have much of the data already
 - Melissa will reach out to Aurora about whether she is interested in taking this on in December

End time 10:34

Respectfully submitted, Melissa Tier