

Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

11/13/14

8:30 a.m., Sharples Main Conference Room

Attendees: Deb Kardon-Brown, Shelia Magee, Laura Cacho, Tao Wang, Tom Cochrane, Carr Everbach, Mark Wallace, H.G. Chissell, Stephen O'Hanlon (notetaker), Eric Wagner

Meeting began with a discussion of how to incentivize energy saving behavior on campus. Focus on academic departments led to concern that there is no central purchasing, no budgetary system that would easily accommodate a financial incentive program for energy saving, as well as the fact that the individual buildings' energy uses are not easily determined. Carrots and incentives for changing habits were mentioned on multiple levels, and acknowledgement that the new VP for Finance, Greg Brown, might be interested in ideas.

Laura: we had our first meeting as a campus community last week about the sustainability standards for new buildings. We are looking at energy usage and also water management. The consultants hired this summer have been spending a lot of time with Tom and Facilities to look at how we need to change our existing systems to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035. They will release their framework and building standard early next semester. The first meeting was an introduction to the process. The second will look more in-depth on the issue.

Shelia: Consultants seem really engaged and interested.

HG: who are the consultants?

Laura: Gilmore, Ballinger, A10, and _____

Ecosphere update:

Stephen: The Green Advisors had their annual trash audit in the Science Center Quad. Their general findings were that the College community doesn't separate waste properly. There was a lot of compostable material in the trash and vice-versa.

General discussion followed about the difficulties and confusion on campus about how best to dispose of waste. Many people seem to WANT to do the right thing, but it is not convenient or understandable. It was determined that both the Zero Waste Working Group and the Communications & Community Outreach Working Groups should begin talking about how to make the disposal of waste on campus much more convenient, understandable, and effective.

This led to a discussion, led by HG Chissell and Laura Cacho, about alumni interest in supporting such efforts on campus, and how to best involve and inform alumni of what is going on here in terms of sustainability. LinkedIn group with over 500 members seems to be one easy and effective avenue. The LAX Conference was also discussed as a possible avenue for working further on this issue, especially in light of the "Big Ideas" proposals and President Hungerford's work on this issue.

Laura: I just received an email from the USGBC asking for submissions for an award. I just heard about it, but can send it out to members. The application is not that involved; it is only 250 words. We can submit multiple proposals, I think. If Deb wants to write a description of Trash-to-Treasure, it would probably only take 10 minutes.

Laura: A couple reminders:

1. Community conversations in the coming weeks to discuss the criteria for the Big Ideas proposals. The first is next Tuesday at 12:30 in Science Center 199.
2. There will be a Hydrofracking symposium on Dec 5th at 4pm. There are three panelists and Carr is moderating.

Adjourn