

Swarthmore College Sustainability Committee
Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, 2/6/15
2:15 p.m., Lang Center Seminar Room

In attendance: Laura Cacho, Sheila Magee, Tom Cochrane, Maurice Eldridge, Eric Wagner, Deb Kardon-Brown, Joy Charlton, Stephen O'Hanlon (notetaker)

Report from Lima Climate Conference:

The Lima Reportback went very well, we had hoped attendance would be higher. People came back with mixed impressions from this conference and about aspirations for future conferences.

Green Initiatives Fund:

The one proposal that we thought would be coming is not ready yet. They are changing course and waiting until next semester, and are going to get some other funding to prepare more. We are going to keep trying to get the word out.

Zero Waste Working Group:

The GAs are making some better signage for what is compostable and recyclable on campus. Things are moving slowly based on availability of Laura Cacho, the Green Advisors, and Linda McDougall.

Laura: One thing I am looking to do is make things simpler. I have to figure out the costs, but I am trying to get everything compostable. I think that if it is simpler, it will help.

Eric: I think some people will still not feel inclined to do the right thing unless there are incentives. In Maine, we were paid to turn in our bottle and cans because of the Bottle Bill, and everyone did it.

Maurice: I think that with simplification and education, we can make this work. At other campuses, it seems like a simple approach makes recycling and composting more effective.

Laura: I think it comes down to culture change, and that will take time, but I think education – through the GAs and other programs – can go a long way.

Preview of the Charrette. Is there anything that SusCom can do to assist?

Laura: I think the logistics and set-up are going very well. We have a lot of RSVPs, but I am concerned that there will not be enough follow through.

Eric: Would it make sense for some of us to do outreach individually? That way we could do 1-on-1 outreach to people. Also, I wonder if we can get it up on the College webpage.

Laura: If folks are interested, I can send a list of names for people to do follow-up. I also will talk to communications about other ways they can promote the event.

Question: What will be the composition of the group?

Laura: Many staff members will be there. There are also two classes participating, so there will be a number of students.

Joy: Will there be Board members and senior staff participating?

Laura: There are two Board members participating, as well as some senior staff. Also, there will be time for informal conversations with some of the experts Thursday morning around 10:00 a.m. I am also trying to organize a session that morning with facilities and some of the architecture staff for the Biology/Engineering/Psychology (BEP) building.

Maurice: I also invited the mayor of Chester, and some folks from Widener, who said they are coming.

Laura: The Swarthmore Mayor and some other Borough folks will be in attendance, too.

Adjourn