

Sustainability Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 5, 2016

4:00 p.m. - Lang Center, Keith Room

Attendance: Aurora Winslade, Sheila Magee, Ralph Thayer - Co-Chair, Melissa Tier, Eric Wagner - Co-Chair, Maurice Eldridge, Ben Berger, Tao Wang, Carr Everbach, Nathaniel Graf, Deb Kardon-Brown

Athletics Banquet (Wagner)

Thanks from Athletics for money from the Green Initiatives Fund to green the awards banquet. All compostable, students were excited about it.

Everbach: Many departments also have end of year events, they could also be compostable, etc. in the future.

Winslade: pricing depends on caterer. JPM caterer for example has no additional fees for compostable ware.

Tier: Head of catering service for the banquet was excited to learn about compostable stuff.

Good Food Project proposal (Green Inti. Fund Subcommittee)

We propose a plan with 3 phases. At the end of each phase, feedback and evaluations of the success of the prior phase are required before funding the subsequent phase.

First phase now-October, 2nd until March next year, 3rd is spring-summer 2017.

Thoughts/comments/discussion: "etc." in phase 1 is vague. "standard" in phase 2 is not defined.

We still have to decide what a passing metric is.

Who establishes standards- subcommittee or all of SusCom?

Difficult to decide now. Unforeseen issues will arise. Most important thing is to have moments for pause and discussion, more so than evaluating everything right now.

Whatever we decide as metrics now may become irrelevant in the future. The project should evolve with oversight.

Maybe we want "feedback and reflection on XYZ" instead of a metrics system.

Do we have a set amount of funding for each phase?

Each phase is associated with funding a certain sub-section of the proposal, so yes.

One of the most confusing issues has been the distinction between getting approval for funding (which we can do) and approval for actually doing things. And it's not clear who can approve them to do things. So this process is putting it on us to give approval for each phase. Other Swarthmore staff and stakeholders can get pulled into the reflection process as necessary.

This gets at the core of the discussion of governance structures for sustainability for lots of issues. Who is in charge of T2T? Transportation systems? etc.

SusCom has never had power to do anything beyond making recommendations and allocating funds. Our main charge is to coordinate things. Individuals in the committee have power.

The OoS has some power and influence with other decision-makers. Ralph has a clear chain. Between those two, the channels are here to get those levels of decision-making.

But the process isn't.

If its grounds, for example, there are other elements that aren't in the room right now. In the end, we can't promise anything. Even in the phase plan, our responsibility is to help coordinate, but we can't grant permission.

But the core of the issue before was that there was an objection to the garden that we didn't know about before.

We should have a process for how to handle things like that when they come up. But some things can't even be answered by the president- they have to go to the Board. So developing and implementing a process will be important.

It's important that this isn't too burdensome for the students to complete.

Hearing no objections to the proposal as amended here, the plan is approved by consensus.

But we should pick up this conversation about process in the Fall.

As this phasing process is going on for the current GF site, there is an ongoing conversation about community gardening on campus, including GF garden, Our Food garden, NPPR, garden by ML, etc.

Trash 2 Treasure Sale

Winslade, Graf, Tier explained that the dormitory lounges are getting set up now for students to organize drop-off. GAs will monitor sites, Dorm Captains will be stationed during peak move out hours.

When the lounges get full, Aunt Pam's downsizing and City Team will come take the treasure to two locations nearby for the sale.

There will be a faculty/staff donation site in Wharton D basement.

Crum Woods (Winslade)

CW steering committee is having a conversation over email. Jose Louis sent an email saying that the Crum Woods are dying. CWSC is giving a presentation to Greg and Val and asking that an endowment be part of the development campaign goals. The Crum serves recreational and academic value. Easier to deal with invasive species now rather than later. Very good meeting. Board is approving development priorities this weekend, Sustainability is on the list, but unclear if the Crum will be.

Development (Winslade)

Fundraising campaign is big, but much of it already allocated or not fungible, and lots of competing interests for the remaining money.

Development said that if someone does show up with lots of giving capacity that they should have in their back pocket a vision to present to them. Winslade

suggested the main idea from the 2015 Sustainability Charette, a Center for Just Sustainability, which fit well, but needs to be much more developed.

Everbach: So a priority for the Fall could be developing a much more detailed vision of what that would look like. Perhaps a white paper of what we would like to have some day. SusCom could develop that.

Eldridge: Mind that time is very important at this stage in the campaign. There is a part of the endowment that belongs to the Arboretum. Its generally speaking not up for grabs.

So we should include Clare Sawyers in the white paper discussion.

When should a white paper be developed?

The Board is about to approve the campaign.

The Center doesn't have to be front and center right now. The critical piece for me is that development staff is going to be allowed to talk about sustainability now. They were not before, but they can now.

Leith Sharp workshop (Winslade)

June 1st

Just sent out an invitation, probably won't be totally open.

She talks about mapping out how decision making process happen and how we want them to happen. We'll have a group do an idea-mapping session to figure out what works at Swat.

Seminar 8:30-1:00, and workshop 1:30-3:30.

June 2nd is full day workshop with only the President's staff and Ralph Thayer.

Sustainability Summit (Winslade/Tier)

It happened. It was good.

What was the outcome of the notes?

He had a medical emergency and was delayed, he said he'll get it to us by the end of this week. We have some great visuals coming, they just haven't come back yet.

Most common positive was the number of community members and Swarthmore borough members and Swarthmore College members who were in a room together sharing.

Catering was also good.

People liked the sharing exhibits in session one, and particularly liked learning about the buildings.

Mostly 4s and 5s on a 1-5 scale.

Close to 200 people came through the Summit at one point or another.

Some hate and some love of the lightning round session.

The mix of people was great. A lot of members of the community had no idea we were doing anything before.

CSA pickup (Winslade)

A couple people have written saying that they signed up, and some requesting moving pickup to campus. Some asked if friends can sign up.

Pickup time is some time in the afternoon.

It varies based on traffic and truck with Red Earth. They send a text when the truck is on its way.

Will we know when people sign up?

I've asked people to email me when they do. Come to the Food for Thought in Bond on the 11th. Karas (sp?) from Red Earth will be there.

We had a selection team that decided to go for Knee High farms, but they can only deliver on Friday. Red Earth doesn't need our business.

President's Sustainability Research Fellowship (Winslade)

We had an orientation breakfast for the students and mentors. 12 fellows were hired on 5 projects- Energy + Carbon, Crum + land management, Waste, Communication, and Planning+Assessment.

There will be a space for community members to suggest projects in future years.

GAs (Tier)

GAs had lunch with the President at her house.

24 students selected for 2016-17, and for the first time are all placed in the dorms.

Carbon Lighthouse (Thayer)

They go into a building and for a price monitor what the energy use is and propose how to reduce waste and save us money. They can provide devices to reduce our waste. We're looking at the Science Center.

It's a \$42,000 deposit, which Greg Brown agreed to take out of some contingency funding, with the idea that the carbon charge would probably pay for the rest of the commission.

We've agreed to sign, but the contract isn't finalized yet.

They're going to do a round over the summer, in the fall, and in the winter.

Could this also be done in the field house?

Probably not - there's not a lot of control points in the field house.

But possibly if they do a good job on the science center.

What they have that we don't is the modeling systems, even if we had their sensors.

We've been taking measurements for the past 3 weeks, and floor plans and where the mechanical systems are so they have some idea going in.

And we do want to talk about student learning and engagement with them.

We have a student interested in possibly working with them in the Fall.

Now is the time to talk to them about that.

CRC watershed association (Winslade)

They would like to organize a session on how to connect research and practice as a non profit. They will pilot it in the Fall as a 1 day workshop over a weekend. We also

want to think about connecting students to potential internships and job opportunities.

We could also use this to connect to Swarthmore classes.

Environmental Advisory Council update (Tier)

There was a cleanup in Little Crum Creek Park on Yale and Swarthmore Ave.

They want to have a community planning session to come up with more developed strategy.

Sheila and Melissa met this morning to figure out summer plans for the garden. The EAC was interested in potentially interested in helping maintain it over the summer.

Our Food garden will persist until the Fall. Jennifer and students will maintain until Alumni weekend, and then Sheila and Melissa will take care of it for the summer.

Future meetings

No planned meetings over the summer.

Recommend we have a final meeting, including Greg Brown - It would be good to ask him for updates on the Inn now that it is open.

Agreed to have final meeting for the semester on Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 4:00 in the Lang Center.

Adjourned.