

Southwestern College Sustainability Council

September 26, 2011

Present: Steve Wilke, Rick Cowlshaw, Elise Blas, Allyson Moon, Kelcie Parrish, Sydnee Nelson, Sarah Hallinan, Sara Weinert, Trenton Williams, Jason Speegle

Steve announced that following the resignation of Dr. Jolivet over the summer Rick is recruiting another faculty member to be on the council.

Old Business

- Creating an SC definition of sustainability. The most recent iteration of the college's mission statement includes the pledge to "live and teach sustainable living." Steve suggested we define the concept of "sustainable." This might include a two-part definition that includes a global definition, and one that defines how this applies to SC. Rick: There needs to be a better connection between students and sustainability. The Green Team is trying to build this connection, but there remains work to do in mobilizing students. Kelsey: Green Team is planning competitions (recycling, energy use) to involve students. The competition is intended to begin building habits. Rick: I'd like to have a visual representation that could be part of the campus tours. Rick will chair a subcommittee (including Sara and Trenton) to work on this definition project.

New Business

- Partnership With Wellness Effort: Trenton and Sarah are part of the wellness committee and will be vigilant for places synergy can be created between the wellness and sustainability efforts.
- Water Use Policy: Elise checked with maintenance to see about sprinkling patterns during the summer. When is the best time to water? How are the sprinklers positioned? Elise and Sarah will work on this issue. Allyson brought up the issue of toilets and faucets running, especially in Darbeth. Anyone who sees unresolved issues such as this should e-mail Steve.wilke@sckans.edu --"I'll bash around on it." It's much easier to stop waste than get to sustainability.
- Personal Engagement in Change: Steve and Rick have been working on how we move this issue into our culture. Steve and Sarah will develop a randomized survey of employees to see how sustainability is implemented in their lives.
- Paper/Printing Issues: Elise says more people are printing double-sided more frequently in the library. More people need to be aware of printing waste, though. Elise and Kelsey will work on this issue.
- Communicating Green Achievements: How do we communicate our green-ness? How do we make the invisible visible? The campus tour might be a place to be doing this. Steve, Sara, Allyson, Rick.

Updates and Affirmations

- Homecoming will include the dedication of the wind turbine.
- The college has been named the Kansas Green Team 2011 educational sustainability award winner by the KDHE.
- Projects working on by Green Team (reported by Jason Speegle): Lighting audit for exterior lights; energy dorm wars; attendance at the Kansas Green Team assembly.

Meeting adjourned at noon.

Submitted by Sara Weinert