

College Sustainability Council Sept. 24

Present: Rick Cowlshaw, Sydnee Green, Trent Williams (by phone), Steve Wilke, James Mastrangelo, Shay Wilson, Allyson Moon, Zack Larsen, Sara Weinert. Absent: Sarah Hallinan

1. This fall a discussion of green issues was added in the beginning-of-year staff orientation. Most of the issues surfaced were practical—turn off the lights, stop wasting paper, etc. Steve took this to signify support of the green efforts. Recycling is having a rocky road because our single-stream company no longer comes from Wichita. The city of Winfield is looking to move to a single stream, so it will be easier for us to join that. Professional Studies is using the Dillons recycling in Wichita. Shay attended a conference at Johnson County Community College and they have some best practices we could emulate. Rick is affiliated with the community group Friends of the Environment. They've been working with Kevin Neighbors to make the transition of single stream recycling, but it is slow going. Is there any way SC can help move that process along?
2. Campus Green Map. This has been designed and is ready to be edited and finalized. Steve is asking for volunteers to help on the final part of this.
3. Use of our sustainability statement: How do we use this in the life of the college? It should be added to the map. Allyson: Could be added to syllabi, along with ethical behavior statement and disability statement. Rick: Each professor could announce it as well. Zack: Sustainability posters? Shay: Campaign disseminating sustainability facts? Rick/Allyson/James will talk to the dean and the faculty chair concerning the syllabus change.
4. AASHE conference follow-up: The conference will be held in October in Los Angeles. Rick, Shay, two additional students, and Jason Speegle will be attending. A goal is to share the information from the conference more widely on campus. Rick will be looking for help in changing how we prompt people to have more sustainable behavior.
5. Using CSC as a partner for working with other groups in and outside of the college to bring in programs: Several community groups exist that could partner with SC groups in promoting sustainability. How could we foster and promote these partnerships? Shay suggested we could connect to other colleges, such as Johnson County, or Pittsburg, which has a community recycle shop. Trent has devised a Sustainable Programs Action Plan for Professional Studies. These are small, intentional steps. He has developed a thermostat setting for different seasons in the East Center. They're expanding to have recycling boxes for paper out for student body. Standardizing office supplies to choose biodegradable, recyclable materials when they order supplies. They're looking to put a green tip into the PS Update that goes out weekly. They have 56 windows in their building and have assessed where they can shut lights down in the south hallway, adjusting

blinds as it gets darker sooner. PS did a green audit but since they don't own the building they can't do a lot of radical transformation without the owner's investment.

6. Green Team update: Sydnee reported there are nearly 20 members now. They have settled into groups and are working on different projects all can work on. This semester groups are helping with a high school retreat, giving presentations in the community, and focusing on campus sustainability day, which is Oct. 24. Will look toward end of semester to do a student move-out day. The group is working with Bluestem Bed and Breakfast on a community garden. Energy Wars will be held this year, now that we have the energy monitoring systems working. America Recycles Day, Nov. 15, will be hosted by the first-year students. The cafeteria is officially going to do away with Styrofoam containers for take-out and will be going to a re-usable clamshell container. All dinnerware for homecoming activities will be compostable.
7. Sustainability courses this semester: Rick reported that this year we have "Science, Society, and the Environment," "Environmental Policy," and "Environmental Economics." In the spring, two classes are planned. Students will do posters in "Environmental Issues" that will be accessible to the student body. Rick encouraged a lecture series on sustainable issues. The Prairie Festival in Salina brings in excellent speakers, and Rick will be going to that conference next weekend to see if a partnership could be formed. James asked about whether there is a local Freecycle. He and Zack will look into this.
8. Alum network to go alongside the CSC and give programs: We have alums who are active in environmental efforts. Sydnee suggested keeping alumni updated, letting them know what's going on campus, and inviting them back for Homecoming. Shay brought up that we could check with alumni to see if there are any sustainable practices or emerging technologies and practices. We also could keep a database of alumni with expertise in this area to help students with current research, papers, etc.

Meeting adjourned at noon.

Minutes submitted by Sara Weinert