

Southwestern College Sustainability Council
Sept. 30, 2013

Present: Steve Wilke, Stacy Townsley, Rick Cowlshaw, Allyson Moon, Trenton Williams (by phone), Jackson Lashier, Natalie Jones, Allyson Shields, Shay Wilson, Sara Weinert,

Steve gave a short history of the group, which began in 2011 with SC's participation in the Presidents' Climate Action Plan. This group is mostly connective and informational, meeting twice a semester. It has been involved with the sustainability map, and has been instrumental in including sustainability in the college's mission statement. Across America, we are experiencing "organizational sustainability fatigue," and we are seeing some of this at SC. We have accomplished some relatively simple things (bicycle racks, recycling bins). Now it is slower going. This council is intended to keep the topic of sustainability alive on campus.

1. Steve: Membership issues: We had originally put term limits on council membership but this has been messy administratively. Faculty and staff move around in a way that has kept people coming on and off the council, and students graduate. Trent is the link to all PS issues that would relate to this. Not seeing objection, we will remove the term limits and let membership of the group evolve organically.

2. Issue updates:

a. Whenever we do any remodeling at the college, Sodexo provides the best practices from a sustainability standpoint. When Wallingford bathrooms were remodeled, toilets, lavatories, shower heads, and other plumbing issues were updated. New fluorescent lights were installed. The new flooring in Cole is considered more sustainable than carpet. The Broadhurst kitchen now has Energy Star appliances. The new heat pumps in Warren also are much more efficient.

b. The newest project is a water fountain that can be used to refill water bottles. Eight will be installed on campus.

c. The City of Winfield has gone to single stream recycling for residential customers, and will be rolling this out for commercial customers (including Southwestern) within the next four to six weeks. When that happens it will transform the way we do our trash.

3. Green Team update: Natalie reported that the Green Team is much smaller. It is down to nine people, so is trying to team up with other organizations to make their projects more sustainable. Ideas: Signs reminding people to turn off televisions in residence halls. Set printing default to double sided rather than single sided. Rick will submit the idea to the faculty meeting, and if there is no objection we will ask Zach Noland (print shop) to automatically print documents double-sided rather than single-sided. Submitting papers electronically: New faculty needs training on Blackboard to be able to get papers submitted. Rick will check with Human Resources on this training. Students in the group prefer electronic over paper, committee members said. Documents are on phones, laptops, and tablets. Steve suggested students could have influence on this issue. Natalie also questioned whether the heat and power systems of the campus could be combined. She also asked about zoning the cooling in Beech and Mossman in order to conserve energy during low-usage hours. This issue has been mentioned to Jeff Gile, but solving it might be difficult. Steve will keep this issue on his plate. Natalie also suggested a solar panel on Christy might pay for itself. This fall Steve will begin meeting with city officials to see if could partner on some issues. This might be one of those issues. Shay suggested we could make people more aware of peak hours.

4. Capital campaign: The college is getting ready for its next capital campaign. This might be an opportunity to go after some of the bigger ticket items or do things on campus that would make sustainability more visible.

5. We've had some trouble getting our greenhouse gas numbers for the college. These numbers are critical to seeing how the campus is doing on making progress toward lowering our greenhouse gases. We hope to get those in the next few weeks.

6. Trent reported that in PS, a sustainability tip will be included in the PS Update twice per month. Stacy has spoken to staff concerning document retention. Trenton is able to track on the printers how numbers are trending. We have more T8 lighting now than when he began at the college. Recycling is going well. Radical changes are planned on the website and he will try to inject sustainability into that.

7. Stacy pointed out that there are many opportunities to continue making strides in sustainability-- document retention, Blackboard usage. This might be an opportunity to be more direct in encouraging these sustainability steps.

The next meeting of the group will be November 25, 2013, 11 a.m. in Kibbe Conference Room

Submitted by Sara Weinert