

Campus Sustainability Council Minutes
April 23, 2012

Present: Steve Wilke, James Mastrangelo, Sara Weinert, Sydnee Nelson, Allyson Moon, Rick Cowlshaw, Shea Wilson.

Absent: Sarah Hallinan, Elise Blas, Trenton Williams.

CSC Website: Steve Wilke reported on the CSC website. This can be accessed through the Green Team page or through the "About SC/Helpful Forms and Links." The page includes the Climate Action Plan and the minutes of previous meetings. We are still waiting to include project updates, resources and links, and a sustainability campus map.

Campus Survey: Sarah Hallinan is working on a Survey Monkey project that will be given to employees in the fall to see where they stand on their own sustainability habits. The CSC is a non-threatening group that can help get this kind of information on all sorts of projects. Rick pointed out that we could add a few questions to the survey if necessary. The Winfield Friends of the Environment is considering doing a similar questionnaire for citizens of Winfield. This could create some synergy between the college and the city.

Sustainability Map: The sustainability campus map is "creeping along with a snail's pace," but now is getting closer to reality. This map is based on the official campus map and includes green and sustainable projects. Steve is committed to having this in the admission office by fall.

Green Team update: There are now 22 members. We will lose 5-7 through graduation, but we expect to gain eight with the freshman class. Next year the team will take a team to National Green Week. The traditional April 22 Earth Day does not work well on campus because of its timing during a stressful time of year, so the team is looking at another date to celebrate this event. Green Team had its wrap-up events last week. The first Sustainability Award was given to Kelcie Parrish, the first Green Team member, who will be graduating.

Sustainability Minor: Rick Cowlshaw reported. He feels we have more students in the sustainability minor than have officially signed up for it. Jason Speegle and Rick have discussed adding the sustainability minor to lists of majors on our website. Steve suggested we have a step in the academic planning process that encourages students to consider academic minors. Jason promotes the minor to the Green Team. Advisors might be able to give more guidance to a more structured pursuit of minors.

Climate Action Plan report update: This report reflects changes (in our favor) that occurred in our greenhouse emissions report. The new report uses more accurate conversions of carbon to electricity. Those improvements show we've reduced our footprint even more than we had thought. It validates some of the things we are doing on an institutional level. What do we do with this information as a group to build momentum on campus? How does the school talk to you? JinxTale, word of mouth (from Jason), sidewalk chalk? Is there a way to get this information onto the screen of the TVs in the student center? If we want to change culture, we need to let people know they are part of a culture that is changing. We need to use all of forums of communication available. Dorm metering should be ready for next year. Rick added that we are not incentivizing small things, such as bike racks.

Sustainability Opportunities for Next Year: Allyson is considering doing something with the creative theatre class that would have touring opportunities. Rick pointed out that the wastefulness of our society is good fodder for satire. Nine Lives show at the end of Green Week? Sydnee will work with Allyson on that.

Environmental Compliance Committee: This group has formed and is now part of the life of the college. There is an overlap between what we have to do for EPA and for our goals. The ECC has responsibility for tracking our compliance efforts. This group probably will have a junior-level internship. The Climate Action Team also is looking into embedding an internship. All of our records will be kept on the website.

Speakers for 2012-2013: Rick will be trying to put together a lecture series on sustainability. This will include connecting with donors, scheduling speakers. Ideally, we will parallel with the Green Week activities.

AASHE (LA Oct. 14-17): Jason is working on taking a team. Frito-Lay is underwriting the cost for some students.

Visit to Drury in Springfield, Mo.: Steve is encouraging the team to visit Drury College, about a four-hour trip. Group members thought this was an appealing idea.

Next meetings will be Sept. 24 and Nov. 26, at 11 a.m. in Kibbe.

Meeting dismissed at noon.

Respectfully submitted by Sara Weinert.