President’s Universitywide Sustainability Committee (PUSC) Minutes
Minutes of September 20, 2012
Room 212, Bernhard Center: 3-5pm

Meeting Attendees
- Jeff Spoelstra, Paul Pancell, Dave Reinhold, Leah Omillion-Hodges, Lu Tavares, Carolyn Noack, Pete Strazdas, Sarah Pratt, Jody Brylinsky, Tim Palmer, Jamie Hirsh, Abolaji Samson Olanipekun, Caroline Webber, Britne Amos, Jorge Rodriguez, Bill Davis, Meghan Walsh
- Guests: Samson’s geography and planning class observed the meeting.

Procedural Items

Approval Of Agenda
- Add an update on solar panels as item 3i. Item 3b and 3c order switched. Minutes approved by consent.

Quick Updates
- New Office for Sustainability building move-in date will be October 8-10. Remodel has used mostly repurposed items and sustainable practices wherever possible. Grand opening will be announced at a later date.
- OfS website is being created by Matt Hollander and should be live within a couple of weeks
- Electric vehicles are appearing regularly at charging stations including a student-leased Nissan Leaf. The OfS will interview the student. A story will be created and sent to University Relations as soon as possible.
- Remaining funding from the solar panel grant could possibly be repurposed to get additional electric vehicles.
- Sustainability Across Research & Teaching (StART) Initiative: Harold Glasser is working with Andrea Beach and her colleagues in the Office of Faculty Development to identify funding to support the creation of a faculty learning community (StART II).
- EcoMugs are being distributed in the BHC from 11am-1pm through September and are also sold at the OfS, $7 for faculty, staff, or student replacement mugs.
- In the last e-mail to the PUSC, Jeff shared a link to the video being shown during First Year Seminar. Sustainability talks in First Year Seminar sessions are scheduled (10 sessions – 200 students total).
- Six people from the OfS will attend the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) annual meeting to be held in Los Angeles, CA from Oct 13-18.
- The OfS will host National Campus Sustainability Day on October 24 with Dr. John Francis the “plantwalker” delivering a public talk.
- It was announced at the recent Board of Trustees meeting that solar panels will be placed on the roof of the new Sangren Hall (a 200KW system). First Geothermal system will be put in the Legacy building to be used for University Archives.

Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) - AASHE program
- STARS Overview: STARS is a sustainability rating system for universities. STARS requires sustainability elements in the curriculum and in research.
- Jeff delivered a STARS overview presentation available at https://stars.aashe.org/pages/about/.
- STARS at WMU: Jody Brylinsky explained that she is leading WMU Strategic Plan implementation (http://www.wmich.edu/strategic/). WMU leadership identified sections of the WMU Strategic Plan that align with the STARS program. WMU is now committed to moving forward with STARS in order to enhance the Strategic Plan (WMU strategic plan: goal 5, 4.2 and 1.1b). Jody is moving forward by creating a tactical action community (TAC). Several TACs will operationalize specific initiatives within the Strategic Plan. The Office of the Provost and the Office of Business and Finance will charter the TAC and initiate a readiness assessment followed by a 1-1.5 year self-study before signing up for STARS. A GA/DA position will be jointly supported by
the provost and business and finance to lead the self-study. There is a TAC meeting planned for Wednesday, September 26, 2012 from 1:30-3:00pm in the Presidents Conference Room. The meeting is open to all members sitting on the PUSC.

**Small Group Exploration**

- Jeff called for small groups to discuss the STARS credit checklist and brainstorm what is known about each credit described (Appendix A). The checklist is a brief description of detailed credit information available in the STARS ver. 1.2 technical manual available as a .pdf here: [http://www.aashe.org/files/documents/STARS/stars_1.2_technical_manual.pdf](http://www.aashe.org/files/documents/STARS/stars_1.2_technical_manual.pdf).

- Group 1, See Appendix B. Point of Contact: Paul Pancella/Jody Brylinsky (Office of Institutional Effectiveness)

- Group 2, See Appendix B. Point of Contact: Carolyn Noack (Office for Sustainability)
  - Other remarks by Group 2 during the report out session indicate that we have or can easily obtain information for all Operations categories except OP T2-2; transportation has some procedures in place, but they do not participate in or track a number of activities.

**Closing Remarks**

- Jody Brylinsky described her vision of the TACs (including the STARS TAC). She suggested that the PUSC would “remain the PUSC and continue doing what it does, but it will spend some energy this year supporting the STARS effort”. She does not want the PUSC to venture off of its agenda, however the PUSC could support a PAT (Project Action Team) all by itself.

- Paul Pancella put forward a motion – “The PUSC supports the formation of a STARS TAC to advance a self-study which will likely lead to WMU’s enrollment in the STARS”. The motion passed unanimously without discussion.

- Motion to adjourn by Paul Pancellla at 4:55 p.m. passed by acclamation.