President’s Universitywide Sustainability Committee Minutes
February 12, 2009

Present: Casey Barrons, Paul Farber, Danielle Harik, Pat Holton, Carolyn Noack, Paul Pancella, John Patten, Anand Sankey, Joshua Schultz, John Schmitt, Daniel Seidling, Barb Wygant, Peter Strazdas (ex officio), David Dakin (ex officio), Lowell Rinker (ex officio), Sarah Campbell (ex-officio), Chair Harold Glasser

Quick Updates

1. **Logo:** Once created the logo will be added to Lowell and President Dunn’s page and Physical Plant website. A preliminary logo design will be presented by Design Center on March 12th for the PUSC and a final logo and product presentation by March 27th.

2. **Campus GHG inventory:** A group of four students in Harold’s ENVS410: Campus as a Living, Learning Laboratory are conducting a greenhouse gas inventory for WMU’s campus. The group is using the Clean Air, Cool Planet (CACP) GHG calculator protocol. The majority of ACUPCC signatories have used the CACP for their GHG inventories.
   - Any committee member that would like to be actively involved in GHG inventory (especially to review the data, protocol, or the evaluation) please contact Harold.

3. **Composting Study:** Sarah Campbell and Harold have been in discussion with Bronson’s Dining Services group about including their food waste in a possible WMU food waste composting program. Bronson Dining Services has suggested that potential funding for part of the initial capital costs may be available through the Bronson Foundation—they agreed to explore this further. Bronson will be conducting a waste audit, similar to the audit conducted on WMU’s dining halls. Sarah has already initiated a funding search and conversations with WMU Foundation. The National Wildlife Federation has been interviewing Sarah Campbell and Harold about our composting research for an upcoming publication on leading campus sustainability projects.

4. **Paper study:** Casey is currently conducting a study on Badger Envirographic 100% post consumer recycled, chlorine free paper. Baseline studies have been completed and further testing will be conducted on a variety of printers and copiers at the College of Fine Arts. Details of the study will be presented at an upcoming PUSC meeting (April meeting is the target).

5. **Research Collaborations:** Barb Wygant gave an update on the Research Office creating a business model for a potential Office of Sustainability to self-sufficiently conduct and operate research projects. Currently, we have no Associate VP for Research or VP for Research (Bassam Harik and Jan VanDerKley are the authorized contacts for the time being). Initiatives that correlate with Stimulus Package should be directed to Greg Rosine. WMU is apart of a community alliance with Portage & Kalamazoo and this might be an opportunity to leverage political support for new initiatives.
   - Dr. Patten was invited by the National Science Foundation to submit a Green Manufacturing proposal—50 companies are involved in the proposed project.
   - Chuck Ide has received an NSF CCLI Grant for infusing climate change & sustainability in to sections of the FYS.

6. **LEED EB Certification** of College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) Building: The review process with US Green Building Council is still underway. We are currently in Round 2 and are 3 points into the Gold level, with a few clarifications still underway (a few points may be deducted due to limited availability of showers). It’s likely that the review process will be completed in the next 2-3 months. The CHHS Building will be the first LEED Existing Building in West Michigan area.

7. **New Outdoor Recycling Bins:** Carolyn said that the RFI is out—she is waiting for responses and will report back to us when she has details.
Announcements

- Peterson’s survey is currently being submitted. WMU is doing well thus far, but there are certain areas for improvement. Currently, we do not have a formal Sustainability Director’s position and have yet to sign onto the Presidents’ Climate Commitment. Carolyn, Harold and others will be working with Cheryl Roland to make sure that the survey data is accurate and representative of WMU’s sustainability commitments and achievements.

Actions

1. Approval of minutes: Motion to approve January, November, and August minutes by Lowell and seconded by Anand. Minutes will be posted on the Sustainability Website soon.

2. Discussion/approval of revisions to the Strategic Sustainability Initiatives Report: Lowell gave an update on Harold’s presentation of the Strategic Sustainability Initiatives Report to President Dunn’s Senior Leadership Team. The Report was well received with only a few suggested changes. Certain wording regarding Sustainability Officer was changed to be more oblique. Provost Greene requested that details be added stressing that any suggested curriculum changes follow the university’s formal processes and protocols for course revision/adding new courses.

Review of Changes made to Report.

- Governance and Administration
  “Create WMU Sustainability Officer Position” to “Create a single structure for coordinating and implementing campus sustainability initiatives that transcends academics and operations and reports directly to the President.” Recommended Change due to the economic state of Michigan. admin position would not be appropriate. Additionally, the change in language is to indicate that structure report directly to the President.

- Curriculum (Thank you to Provost Greene for the thoughtful recommendations).
  2. “Create more opportunities for “student campus sustainability internships” to collaborate with staff, administrators, and faculty to address key campus sustainability issues.” to “projects, theses, and internships”. More inclusive to broaden student experiences and involvement.
  3. Change to include First Year Seminar program on Sustainability and Climate Change that Dr. Chuck Ide is principle investigator. National Institute of Science will be rewarding the program as 2-credit course. Program will have 8 break out sessions featuring presentations by John Patten, Harold Glasser, Steve Bertman. Barb will notify Dr. Ide about Pat’s work on stormwater as a possible guest lecture.
  4. At the beginning of initiative add “Following WMU’s GPoCC, develop new environment- & sustainability-oriented degree combinations, minors, & concentrations”

- Research
  Initiative #2: Section in parentheses is deleted “this could be housed in/under the proposed Office of Sustainability—I.1 above.” Change made for consistency with new wording of initiative I.1 on Sustainability Body or Structure.

- Motion to allow Ex-officios voting rights by Casey, seconded by Harold.
• **Motion to approve changes** to Strategic Sustainability Initiatives Report made by Lowell seconded by John Patten and Pete Strazdas.

• **Future and Distribution of Report:**
  - Harold will present the Report at the next CPFC meeting, Tuesday February 17th, 3 p.m.
  - PUSC will request that President Dunn address and distribute Report via email to the campus community. HG will request that Lisa put the Report on a private section of the Sustainability website until we have approval for the rollout. [**UPDATE:** the Report has been made public on the Sustainability website; we are still waiting in President Dunn’s email queue for an announcement to the entire campus community.]
  - Recommendations for the future of the Strategic Sustainability Initiatives Report:
    - A strategy will be created to allow for public comment. This feedback will be utilized by the PUSC for future improvements and to gather input. Separate page to be created by Lisa Knutson and a “thank you” auto reply to be sent to commenter. Comments and feedback to be reviewed once a month. Harold agreed to be responsible for this for the time being. It was viewed as desirable, if possible, to set up a webpage so that the entire PUSC had access to the comments that come in.
    - The possibility of creating a Blog for general sustainability discussion was also raised. The Website committee will discuss this at their next meeting.
    - Another opportunity that was raised was creating a Public Forum to initiate discussion on Report. This could happen through collaboration with WSA, GSAC, and Faculty Senate. The press could also be invited to report on public discussion and comment.

3. **Open strategy discussion:** Harold would like to have an open discussion to review our progress to date, discuss the future scope/role of the Committee (particularly in relation to implementation), etc. Our original charge was to advise the President on strategic sustainability initiatives and evaluate the feasibility of signing onto the ACUPCC. The PUSC has been acting as a “gatekeeper” and quasi-implementation body with no formal authority and no budget under the assumption that some sort of “Sustainability Director” position will be created. What should our role be post releasing of the Strategic Sustainability Initiatives Report and the evaluation of the ACUPCC?

**Next Meeting:** Thursday March 12th, 2009 3 p.m. Further information to be provided by Harold.

• **Motion to make meetings on Second Thursday of Every Month** made by Harold, Seconded by Carolyn. Approved.