President’s Universitywide Sustainability Committee Minutes

April 9th, 2009 at 3 pm
Room 205 of the Bernhard Center

Present:
Casey Barrons, Sarah Campbell, Samantha Cooper, Dave Dakin, Paul Farber, Judy Gipper, Harold Glasser, Pat Holton, Laurie Lijewski, Paul Pancell, Lowell Rinker, Anand Sankey, Josh Shultz

Announcements
• The next Ball State “Greening of the Campus” conference (#VIII) will be in Indianapolis from September 20\textsuperscript{th}-23\textsuperscript{rd} 2009. Dr. Glasser has submitted abstracts for the PUSC Committee, the composting study, and the paper study for review.

• On August 13-14\textsuperscript{th} 2009 in Chicago, the ACUPCC is holding its third annual “Climate Leadership Summit”. We would like to have a formal GHG and Climate Action Strategies report to President Dunn by the end of July so he can be prepared to make a decision whether or not to sign the ACUPCC in advance of the meeting.

Actions

Approve Minutes
Motion to approve the minutes by Casey Barrons, seconded by Anand Sankey—minutes approved.

Approve Agenda
Motion to approve the agenda by Harold Glasser, seconded by Lowell Rinker—agenda approved.

Quick Updates

1. **Green Gala (April 8)—thanks Casey for organizing!**
   The Green Gala was well attended by students, staff, administrators, faculty, and community members. Lots of new people were in attendance—many had not heard of the Strategic Sustainability Initiatives Report. Diane Anderson, Dr Gilchrist, Lowell, and Dr. Glasser sat on a panel and took questions from the audience. The questions were well-informed and the interaction was spirited and enthusiastic. Lowell mentioned that the SWMI Sustainable Business Forum was well-represented and that its President, Lynn Spurr, made some very thoughtful and supportive comments about the fabulous leadership on sustainability issues that WMU has taken in recent months. The menu and floral arrangements for the event were locally sourced!

2. **Casey—paper study & GG updates:**
   Casey and Harold have been going through the paper study data. Harold recently
spoke with Todd Collins from BPM. They have agreed to send another 40 cases of paper for free. They also asked to receive copies of any problems so their office can review them and work collaboratively to make improvements in the future. Todd also mentioned that there is no other school our size that is currently sourcing 100% recycled paper from BPM or doing such thorough research. Lowell mentioned that at WMU’s quarterly business manager meeting, he recruited a few more volunteers that are interested in a participating with paper study data collection.

3. **Sarah—Composting Review Report:**
   Congratulations to Sarah for her recent success! The National Wildlife Federation wrote an article called, “A Lot To Digest With Composting On Campus,” Ryan Newhouse, which featured Sarah and her work with WMU among a few other programs. Sarah and Dr. Glasser have a due date of next Friday, April 17th for the “final” draft, which will be sent out for formal review.
   After Friday, they will move into developing a fundraising plan, exploring next steps for piloting, proposal development, and incorporating final comments into the report after peer reviews are received.

4. **Harold—GHG Inventory 410 class project update:**
   There has been tremendous support throughout the campus community in supplying a broad array of data. Thanks to everyone that has helped to provide this data! WMU is one of a small, select group of universities that has performed a full Scope I, II, & III student-run GHG inventory in less than a year. We are waiting to get data from Metro Transit to complete the Scope III assessment. *Harold’s 410 class is presenting to President Dunn on April 21st at 10 AM. Sam Cooper will take notes & help write an article for the Herald, the Gazette, or the Sustainability website.

5. **Anand—Climate Savers Computing Initiative:**
   Anand gave a brief presentation on the CSCI initiative last week & explained that we are exploring signing the Initiative, which encourages buying EPA Energy Star 4.0 compliant computers and peripherals as well as employing energy savings settings and turning off computers and peripherals when they are not in use (both manual and automatic options are being considered). For more details see, the CSCI website: http://www.climatesaverscomputing.org/

   Anand is currently overseeing a beta test at the Physical Plant to explore the response of users to automatic network resetting of energy savings settings and to benchmark projected savings. The initial response has been positive. Anand and Harold will continue to vet the idea with the appropriate WMU personnel and develop an implementation strategy.

6. **Community Sustainability Luncheon/Covenant:**
   Who should be the lead contact for organizing? We need someone to compile and review the survey. How can we use this best practices luncheon opportunity? Pete suggested a two-pager best practices sheet for everyone to prepare. There is interest in developing a Community Sustainability Indicators project. This process would
involve visioning about what people hope for in the future and doing a baseline about current city characteristics. Then we put together benchmarks in order to hold us all accountable over time. Casey will need to connect with ____?____ about keeping initiatives rolling in-between the meetings.

7. **4th Annual NACUBO Smart and Sustainable Campuses Conference:**

Lowell and Anand recently attended this conference, which included a diverse mix of VP’s and facilities people, students, sustainability directors, environmental safety managers, business partners, etc. Statistics show that the number of Presidents that have signed the ACUPCC commitment has reached a plateau. Presenters at the meeting emphasized that there is currently no “rating system” to track progress on the ACUPCC. Lowell plans to summarize his conference notes and report back in more detail for the next PUSC meeting. Several great presentations are available. Anand will send out a link and password for those that are interested in accessing these resources—see below for details:

1. Go to: [www.nacubo.org](http://www.nacubo.org)
2. Click: My NACUBO (left side)
3. Login username: anand.sankey@wmich.edu password: anand
4. Click My Events (left side)
5. Click NACUBO Program

This should provide you access to all the power point presentations online.

8. **EcoMug:**

Harold reported that his 410 students completed surveys and tests regarding potential Wesustain Ecomugs. Judy Gipper also helped with supplying the full array of paper and Styrofoam cups and purchasing data for analysis. After looking at more than 30 mug options, the students identified a mug model from an alumni owned, MI company (double wall, stainless 15 ounce, no handle). The price is still being negotiated. After four years this project would pay for itself through yearly savings if no paper/Styrofoam cups were used—or if consumers were charged an additional surcharge to cover the costs of these items. Judy offered to promote the Wesustain Ecomug through orientation materials by advertising that students can get discounts by using their WMU mugs at Cafes around campus in addition to using them in campus dining halls.

**Discussion**

**David Dakin on incorporating Sustainability into the Master Plan:**

David shared a draft document, prepared by Susan Kamman, which incorporates comments (mostly sustainability focused) from last fall’s Master Plan updating effort. (The majority of the comments from the public session were related to sustainability issues—these even above East Campus comments!) Campus Facility Development would like to incorporate a revised document into the Master Plan soon. The committee felt that ingress-egress issues and making our campus more pedestrian and bicycle friendly should have a higher priority. The Master Plan does lay out plans to redo
Stadium Drive in 2013. This may be the opportune time to make structural change that would make the campus more pedestrian and bicycle friendly. PUSC members asked how we might facilitate/support a planning process that would set the stage for the necessary changes to be made when the redo of Stadium Drive happens in 2013?

One suggestion was for the PUSC to sponsor a forum or a day-long design charrette with planning firms, Mdot, WMU, K and city officials to begin a dialogue.

The group agreed that individuals would email Dave Dakin any additional comments, once they had a chance to review Susan’s draft in more detail.

Possible “Green Corner” in the Herald:
The group had a short discussion on strategies to increase the visibility of sustainability activities on campus for students. The idea of creating a “Green Corner” for the Herald was being championed by several PUSC members. Casey noted that the Herald just changed editors, but she feels that we need to generate interest from a student writer, or take on the responsibility in some other context, ourselves. Anand has begun to come up with a list of information pieces that could be included in a “Green Corner”. Sam Cooper will contact the Herald to get more information about starting this, as well as collaborating on writing sustainability articles in the future. She will update us at the next PUSC meeting.

Day at the Capital on May 27th:
Will there be an effort to represent WMU’s sustainability efforts at the Day at the Capital? Our proposal was not chosen during the initial selection. Judy mentioned their desire for highly interactive presentations. Harold and others believe that WMU’s recent work on sustainability stands out statewide and that we should continue to explore avenues to have a presence at the Day at the Capital. He will work with Lowell and Casey to explore other options.

Sangren Renovation:
David reported that Campus Facility Development is in the process of setting up programming meetings (open, public). There should be an meeting in April or May, if PUSC members are interested in attending. It is still uncertain whether we will get the full requested funds ($56 million) from the State or only $15.6 million for the renovation. David and Chris will keep us posted.

Sustainability Publicity sub-committee:
Laurie and Anand are interested in exploring additional strategies to reach out to the campus community and raise awareness. How should and who should roll out such initiatives? Casey’s suggestion is that we do something on Campus Sustainability Day at the beginning of Fall semester to officially introduce the new WMU Sustainability Identity (October 22nd). Others suggested incorporating the Wesustain Identity before this on places like the Ecomug, the new recycling containers, green signs, and campus posters. Laurie believes we should utilize things such as: Educable, Tips For the Green Corner website, discussions with Orientation leaders, University Showcase (similar to Bronco Bash), working with ResLife to get posters into the dorms as well as bulletin boards and curriculum for RA’s (possibly having eco-reps among RA’s), and introduce
sustainability merchandise (t-shirts, key chains, lanyards, window stickers, hats, water bottles, 100% PCW notebooks, etc.). The discussion of formal guidelines for use of the Wesustain Identity will be saved for the next PUSC meeting.

**Further Discussion Questions:**

Q. What is the appropriate line between our (original) advisory role and the necessity for moving forward with implementing sustainability initiatives on campus? What body or group should be responsible for and in charge of guiding and supervising implementation?

Q. If the PUSC does become further involved in the implementation process, how should we ramp up for this additional responsibility? What additional resources will we need? Should the PUSC form initiative sub-committees or should we somehow try to guide the implementation process as a committee of the whole?

Q. Part of this group’s charge is to facilitate making connections, promote collaboration, share best practices, and work efficiently across all sectors of campus to connect the dots of sustainability. How can we do this more effectively?

Please feel free to email Harold your thoughts on these issues or meet with him privately to discuss your thoughts/concerns, if that’s more convenient. Harold will compile any feedback he gets and share them with the PUSC when we return to this discussion.

• Next meeting: (No meeting in May in order to facilitate discussion on particular issues). June 4th, Faculty Dining Room, Bernhard Center at 3 pm