President’s Universitywide Sustainability Committee Minutes

Minutes of 16th July 2009
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center

Members present: Casey Barrons, Samantha Cooper, Harold Glasser, Pat Holton, Paul Pancella, Chris Pyzik, Lowell Rinker, Anand Sankey, John Schmitt

Guests: WMU Dining Services Executive Chef Nicholas Petruska and Food and CPG Marketing student Christine Davinich, WMU students and GHG Inventory Project Leaders Chris Caprara and Kaitlyn Shields, Maintenance Services Energy Management Outreach Coordinator Evan Escamilla

Harold Glasser called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Acceptance of the Agenda

A motion was made by Holton and seconded by Pancella to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes of June 2009

A motion was made by Rinker and supported by Pancella to approve the minutes of 4 June 2009. Motion carried.

GUEST PRESENTATION I—WMU Dining Services Executive Chef Nicholas Petruska and Food and CPG Marketing student Christine Davinich:

Petruska and Davinich gave a presentation regarding sustainability and WMU’s Catering and Dining Services (WCDS). WCDS has committed to replacing the disposable packaging for our drop-off services in the near future. Already, WCDS has met with several companies who sell compostable products, and they will continue to seek out the best products. For instance, they plan to replace their nine inch plates, six inch plates, six ounce plastic cups and their carryout containers with compostable materials. In addition, the plastic silverware will be switched to potato starch silverware, despite the price increase of two cents per piece. WCDS will be utilizing their new booking system—Event Master, which is used for purchasing, inventory and stock, production recipes, room bookings and etc.—to quantify and track usage and progress accurately.

Petruska informed the committee that WMU’s main food distributor, Gordon Food Services, utilizes one hundred mile choices that we can choose to order. In addition, WMU may utilize Elzinga and Hoeksema, a sustainable greenhouse operation in Kalamazoo (several PUSC members toured the facility earlier in July). Petruska agreed to send Glasser more detailed information regarding any local food sourcing to include in our future Sustainability Endowment Survey and the WMU Sustainability website. Please
contact the Director of Dining Services and PUSC committee member Judy Gipper with any feedback, recommendations, or questions.

**GUEST PRESENTATION II & DISCUSSION**—Campus GHG Inventory and Discussion of the ACUPCC, with a focus on implementation. Chris Caprara and Kaitlyn Shields (Baseline year: 2007-2008):

WMU students Chris Caprara and Kaitlyn Shields are expanding on their GHG Inventory project that they began last semester in Glasser’s *Campus As A Living Laboratory* course through support from the Wege Foundation. Project updates can be reviewed in previous PUSC minutes. The goals of this project are threefold: (1) to determine best-practice in GHG inventory reporting; (2) to revise and refine WMU’s GHG inventory; and (3) to determine best-practice in Climate Action Planning (CAPing) in HE. The information will be shared with ACUPCC and hopefully support the rapid advancement of GHG reporting and CAPing nationally.

Considering the WSA motion put forth by Casey Barrons last year; the GHG research of Caprara, Shields, and others; and the many GHG reduction initiatives/policies that continue to be implemented on campus (including signing the Climate Savers Computing Initiative), WMU is well poised to sign the ACUPCC. As a result, Harold put forth a motion to recommend that the President sign the ACUPCC agreement and support a willingness to draft a CAP within two years. The motion was seconded by Paul Pancella. ADDENDA: The morning after our PUSC meeting VP Rinker and Glasser met with President Dunn and he officially signed WMU onto the ACUPCC!

Currently, there are 650 ACUPCC signatories, although only sixteen official Climate Action Plans (CAP’s) have been submitted (the two-year deadline for submitting a CAP is coming up for many signatories this Fall).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Former PUSC committee member Josh Shultz accepted a sustainable agriculture position working for the *Island School* in the Bahamas, and will no longer be representing the Gibbs House at PUSC meetings. Wish him luck! joshua.a.shultz@wmich.edu

**UPDATES:**

- **Ecomug Program** (Casey Barrons)

  Barrons is leading the way for implementation of the Wesustain Ecomug Program, which was initiated in Glasser’s *Campus As A Living Laboratory* course and has been carried through several student projects since 2001. PUSC member, John Schmidt, has been assisting with the development of a business plan that would involve DKI in support of the Wesustain Ecomug Program. If all goes well, the mugs, which will bear the Wesustain identity, will be distributed for free to all incoming students this Fall. Stay tuned for details (information about the program will be published on the WMU Sustainability website).
DISCUSSION ITEMS:

• Expansion of PUSC to include faculty members from each College? (Harold Glasser)

There are seven academic colleges at WMU, including Aviation, Health and Human Services, Fine Arts, Arts and Sciences, Education, Engineering and Business. Currently, we have representation from four colleges, including Engineering, Business, Education and Arts and Sciences. The PUSC committee at large agreed that as we move forward in promoting sustainability curriculum across the campus offerings, we should have a diverse representation from each college. As a result, Harold Glasser will send a message to each one of the Dean’s as well as the President of Faculty Senate John Jellies with a request to nominate representatives.

• “Formal Use Guidelines” for the WMU Wesustain Identity”—of particular importance are guidelines for appropriate use, especially for merchandising (Harold Glasser)

Harold posed the following question to the committee: “Should we have a formal rubric or application process when requesting to use the WeSustain logo, or should we make decisions on a case by case basis?” After discussion, the PUSC committee unanimously agreed to form a sub-committee in order to draft a set of guidelines that will empower them to make responsible, efficient decisions. This committee will be in charge of logo usage, as well as promoting the new logo. The PUSC committee nominated Casey Barrons as the new head of the Marketing Committee for the PUSC. Other sub-committee members include Anand Sankey, Cheryl Rowland and, possibly, Lisa Knutson. Barrons will report on the sub-committees progress at the August PUSC meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Lowell Rinker informed the committee that the future is to see only recyclable containers in fast food restaurants! WMU’s Pilot Plants is at the forefront of this research. In the WMU News article titled, “WMU takes leading role in recycling fast food containers,” Mark Schwerin from WMU News comments that, “WMU’s pilot plants have been heavily involved in defining the process for certifying fiber-based products, including food and beverage containers, for repulpability and recyclability. And when the products or cups are not recyclable, Kendrick and his pilot facilities help the retailers, converters and paper mills attain recycling certification. The WMU Pilot Plants are one of only three sites in North America capable of doing that.” VP Rinker also reported that we may eventually see a WMU certified symbol on new fiber-based Starbucks cups.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm. The next meeting of the PUSC is scheduled for August 20 at 3 pm in the Bernhard Center, Room 204.