President’s Universitywide Sustainability Committee (PUSC) Minutes

Minutes of June 17 2010
Room 205, Bernhard Center

Members Present: Chris Caprara, Sam Cooper, Dave Dakin, Mervyn Elliot, Paul Farber, Harold Glasser, Matt Hollander, Pat Holton, Carolyn Noack, Paul Pancella, Mary Peterson, Joel Raveloharimisy, John Schmidt, Kaitlyn Shields

Guests: Kirk Dillery, WMU Energy Systems Specialist, Caroline Webber, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Approval of Agenda
Motion by Pancella to accept the Agenda as presented; seconded by Holton; Agenda approved.

Approval of Minutes
Motion by Schmidt to approve the Minutes as presented; seconded by Dakin; Minutes approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Caroline Webber, a Dietetics professor from the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. Caroline is developing a sustainable foods systems focus for the Dietetics Program. She is also interested in promoting sustainable food systems on campus. This year, her interns will engage in a sustainable food systems project such as the Student Café initiative. Please contact Caroline at caroline.webber@wmich.edu if you are interested in collaborating with her!

Welcome to Kirk Dillery, Energy Systems Specialist at WMU. Kirk is finishing up writing an AASHE award proposal for a major upgrade to the campus irrigation control system (totally web-based). He is interested in learning more about the sustainability initiatives happening across campus. Please contact Kirk at kirk.dillery@wmich.edu to learn more about his efforts to increase energy and water efficiency on campus.

Kate Shields is working hard to develop the Fall 2010 EcoRep Program, which may incorporate Gibbs House research fellows. Please contact her at kaitlyn.e.shields@wmich.edu if you want to offer assistance or get involved!

QUICK UPDATES

Sam—WeSustain Donation Strategy
Sam recently held a meeting with Lynda Hunt, Director of Development Accounting for WMU’s Development Office. Sam will continue to work with Lynda and Suzanne Beals from the Annual Fund to incorporate “Sustainability Initiatives” into the donation system at WMU. Eventually, we will be added to the drop down list for donors on the “Make A Gift” page of WMU’s
Development website under the “Miscellaneous” category. Sam will give an update on her upcoming Development Office meetings during the July PUSC meeting.

Harold—How should we proceed re. April’s presentation by Courtney & Dave to improve the visibility & access of our campus sustainability activities & website (and our vote of support for a pilot study to include the Wesustain Icon on the WMU Homepage and/or About WMU Page)?

Sam is coordinating a meeting with Thom Myers and Cheryl Roland to discuss placing the Wesustain Icon on WMU’s Homepage and/or About WMU page. Last semester, 410 students Courtney McNaughton and David Parnell conducted surveys and evaluated the top SEI Report Card schools. They discovered that most top performing “green” schools have sustainability icons or some text supporting their sustainability activities present on their main or secondary web pages. In April, the PUSC voted to support placing the Wesustain Icon onto the WMU main homepage for a trial period of six months. By using Google Analytics, the PUSC could analyze whether the Wesustain Icon is an effective tool for promoting outreach to students, faculty, and alumni. Another potential option includes posting icons for each of President Dunn’s “three pillars” (Health & Wellness, Diversity & Inclusion and Sustainability). Sam and Harold will give an update next month regarding developments with various WMU electronic communications specialists.

Pete—update on Grant Proposal for EV Transit Connects

Pete was unable to attend the June PUSC meeting. NEWSFLASH (July 8, 2010)—we got the grant to cover ½ the cost of 10 BEV and charging stations! Thanks to Pete for taking the initiative on this opportunity and thanks to Chris for putting the proposal together.

PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSION

Matt, Sam, & Harold—SF Implementation: Review and Discussion of DRAFT Implementation Plan and associated documents.

Matt presented a two-page summary of allocation guidelines for the SFI reflecting new developments made after holding meetings with Diane Anderson, WSA President Aaron Booth and GSAC Chair Joel Raveloharimisy. The PUSC held a discussion regarding the allocation summary and offered several new recommendations. The main developments in the SF implementation guidelines include a proposed split among the Sustainability Fund. The revised guidelines still contain funds reserved for individual sustainability grants. However, these funds will be phased-in and grow annually as the institutional capacity of the Office of Sustainability grows. These guidelines also include funds for projects managed by the Office of Sustainability. In order to ensure that projects are representative of students, the Office of Sustainability will distribute a large-scale survey each January to students to assess project priorities. Once the survey data is analyzed, the Office of Sustainability will hold a public meeting and then use this input to develop a proposal for the PUSC for projects to be managed by the Office (students will take a leadership role with project research and implementation). Once accepted, this proposal will form the basis for the suite of projects to be managed by the Office of Sustainability for the following year.
Overall, the PUSC agreed that the SF implementation plan/allocation guidelines should be reviewed on an annual basis by WSA, GSAC, DOSA and the PUSC. Matt will work with Harold to revise these documents to reflect PUSC recommendations and distribute them to GSAC, the WSA and the PUSC for review. Please contact Matt at m4hollan@wmich.edu if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Items to address at the July 10’ PUSC meeting
1. Sustainability Website Recommendations presentation
2. Wesustain Icon Link Progress
3. Sustainability Office Development Update
4. SFI Update
5. Marketing Committee Update
6. Monthly Campus Sustainability Events discussion
7. EcoRep Program Development Update
8. EcoMug Progress Update
9. Progress on Student Sustainability Blog
10. Gibbs House Program Restructuring Update
11. Update on conversations about a Waste Vegetable Oil to Mower Pilot
12. Update on 410 Vermicomposting Project & Dining Hall Pilot
13. Update on Filtered Water Pilot
14. Socio-Cultural Studies Learning for Sustainability M.S. track progress update

The June PUSC meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm

Upcoming meeting: Bernhard Room 205 on Thursday July 15 at 3 pm.