President’s Universitywide Sustainability Committee (PUSC) Minutes
Minutes of April 19, 2012
President’s Dining Room

Members Present: Matt Hollander, Carolyn Noack, Paul Terzino, Nola Wiersma, Fredah Mainah, Kate Binder, Paul Pancella, Mary Peterson, Maia Housler, Lu Tavares, and Caroline Webber

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Motion by Nola Wiersma to approve the Minutes as presented; seconded by Caroline; Minutes approved.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Motion by Paul P. to approve the Agenda with additional announcements/updates regarding SustainabiliBASH, ACUPCC Climate Action Plan, and the Student Sustainability Survey Town Hall; seconded by Caroyln; Agenda approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MATT HOLLANDER

• SustainabiliBASH – was a very successful inaugural event. Over 100 people attended throughout the day. Activities included food, workshops on vermicomposting and how to stylish make messenger bags from plastic grocery bags, open bike shop, skills sharing, campus beet, nature walks, and music. The OfS hopes to sponsor the event next year along with an annual Fall Harvest/Intern Project Sharing event. Photos and media will be available on our new website

• WMU’s ACUPCC Climate Action Plan – Has been approved and submitted to ACUPCC (approved by the president Dunn and VP Van Der Kley). It will be available on the new OfS website. In the meantime, if you want a copy, please contact Paul Pancella or Harold Glasser. A big thanks goes out to Paul Pancella for leading the Sub-Committee that developed the main CAP recommendations and for writing the CAP with Harold.

• The Second Annual Student Sustainability Survey Town Hall Meeting took place on Thursday April 12. The turnout was good, with more than 50 people. The Town Hall Meeting was facilitated by a group from Harold’s ENVS 4100 class, who started off the meeting with a review of the survey results and a comparison to the 2011 survey. Lots of good discussion and questions ensued. Last year only three people attended a similar event that was held during the summer. The student’s report will be posted on the “Student Projects” section of the OfS website. Ursula Zerilli from MLive was present and her article was published on Friday April 13.

• The Gibbs House needs more strong applicants. Please encourage highly qualified students to apply. Posters are available from Matt—please spread the word. Benefits include: paid internships, discounted rent, and living across from the Asylum Lake Preserve.

• The 50 kW PV Array and EV charging stations adjacent to the Miller Parking Deck will be formally dedicated at a ribbon cutting ceremony at 10:30 on Friday April 20. Another dedication for Borgess’s charging stations will follow.

• Caroline Webber – WMU’s Dietetic Internship Program just underwent its 10-year review. Reviewers noted that they were very impressed by the program’s emphasis on sustainability and local food systems.
• Nola – HullabaZOO a DIY Celebration event sponsored by the Peace Center took place on Saturday April 14 at the Wesley Foundation. A couple hundred people enjoyed handmade, upcycled and recycled crafts from local vendors, workshops, and music.

• Nola – The last Free Market of the year took place on April 18. Over 130 people attended and Nola was on TV news! Nola can’t be replaced, but if you have ideas for an enthusiastic, energetic student that might be able to follow in her footsteps, please contact Carolyn.

• Fredah – StART Initiative announcement, May 1st will be the 3rd meeting. Over thirty-five faculty have participated to date and the initiative is gaining momentum and being received well.

**PRESENTATION – OVERVIEW OF WASTE REDUCTION & RECYCLING STRATEGIC PLAN DRAFT**

**CAROLYN NOACK** – Gave a progress update on her research project establishing best practice waste management strategies at other universities and her efforts to meet with campus departments and offices to begin the process of crafting a strategic plan for waste reduction and recycling.

A discussion ensued about printing and the need to revisit how campus labs are implementing the double-sided printing policy. It appears that the main computer labs have implemented this policy well some labs have not set their printers to double-side print automatically. As an example, Maia mentioned that some of the Macs in the Berhard aren’t printing double-side automatically. Ideally all offices would print to a central workstation that is set to auto print double sided. Matt agreed to double-check on implementation of the Climate Savers Computer Initiative and how double-sided printing could be built into the ongoing implementation being managed by Anand Sankey at FM.

Matt raised a question about pizza boxes from Pizza with the Profs and Stadium Night—how could we divert them? The pizzas are donated so this raises a significant issue. WMU is not in a position to easily switch to a more sustainable, low waste food option and we can’t demand that they purchase reusable containers. A discussion with the vendors to see if any options to lower waste might exist, however, could be an option.

Dining Services will be eliminating Styrofoam and they will continue to explore reusable container options for carry-out.

**STATUS UPDATES**

**AT-LARGE PUSC NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT**

- Postponed to June meeting

**CALL FOR OFS WORK PLAN IDEAS**

- Materials were previously sent out by Harold and Jeff and a call was made for input on work plan ideas. To the question—“Are there any other big issues that people want the OIS to work on?”—the following discussion and suggestions resulted:
  - Paper Use:
    - Mary mentioned that at another local non-profit, people are charged a little extra when they request a hard copy to be mailed during large mailings. Perhaps some incentives or disincentives could be created to reduce mass paper mailings on campus?
    - Lu mentioned that inboxes are always full of paper announcements. Is there a way to standardize bulletin boards for each department so that these paper materials can be posted once, rather than in each mailbox. What about creating centralized areas in each department or office for news so that only one copy is made of each. Collaborate with mail services and explore switching to electronic announcements.
    - Caroline suggested posting events on central and distributed electronic calendars (the new WMU Drupal CMS might facilitate this). AAUP fliers could be posted on their site so that people could access them whenever they need to rather than depending on hard-copy fliers.
    - University wide paper purchasing policy now has a default of 30% post-consumer recycled paper from Office Depot. Should this be increased?
What about recycled paper business cards for campus?
What about a system to track paper use, individual and departmental, that would help people to visualize paper usage.
What about visual reminders for “Can you please print double sided?” Sticky notes, or intermittent reminders were also suggested.
Caroline noted that students are still printing everything that she sends electronically.
  • WMU should consider rebating students for not using their full printed paper allotment each semester?
    o Improved Lighting Controls – occupancy sensors, better bulbs, etc.:
      ▪ Consider creating more behavior change initiatives for switching off lights
      ▪ Develop a program to assess occupancy sensor effectiveness, settings, etc.
        • Create a real-world problem solving, service learning class, or FYE class to assess lighting controls and recycling programs.
        • Kate has some connection to AASHE and Ball State initiatives that are designed to integrate research and coursework to design and implement such assessment projects.
    o Explore Improved Coordination of the Bus Schedule with the Class Schedule.

NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION/HUMAN POWERED VEHICLES
  ▪ A resolution was proposed to build on the 2009 Strategic Sustainability Initiatives Report Category II, Initiative 4 and to “Improve options for safe and efficient bicycle and pedestrian transit and circulation, both on and off campus.” Matt moved, Mary seconded, motion approved.

PROPOSED CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS

MAY 2012
Canceled

JUNE 2012
  ▪ AT LARGE CALL FOR MEMBERS
  ▪ Review and approve revised initiative table(s)
  ▪ IF YOU THINK OF ANY ADDITIONS, PLEASE EMAIL JEFF, MATT OR HAROLD

JULY/AUGUST
  ▪ Discuss indicators for AASHE, SEI, STARS, Princeton Review etc. (We received a 96 from Princeton review, up from 92 and 94 in previous years. WMU was second in MI to GVSU who received a 98).

Matt made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Carolyn, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:45p.m.

Upcoming meeting: June 21, 2012 at 3 PM in Room 205, Bernhard Center.