President’s Universitywide Sustainability Committee (PUSC) Minutes
Approved Minutes of October 17, 2013
Office for Sustainability

Welcome and Introductions
Members: Anne Copeland, Nicole Davenport, Harold Glasser, Derek Kanwischer, Carolyn Noack, Kelsey Patterson, Jeff Spoelstra, Pete Strazdas
Guest: Kahler Schuemann

Procedural Items
Approval of Minutes
Without a quorum meeting minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

Welcome and Introductions
We extend a warm welcome to Kahler Schuemann, Special Assistant to President John Dunn, a guest at this PUSC meeting.

Meeting Attendance
Several committee members were not able to attend due to schedule conflicts, other university events, and illness. A quorum was not met for this meeting.

Discussions
A brief review of the accomplishments of the PUSC and universitywide sustainability efforts was presented. Participants agreed that as sustainability efforts increase and advance across campus and in the community, the PUSC should take time to define the direction the PUSC take?

Kahler considered the role of the PUSC one that should “instill passion” for sustainability initiatives. He noted that if a group is too large, participants may feel a loss of influence, and he suggested the creation of smaller working groups or subcommittees. While this kind of shared governance does require increased responsibility it can be more effective in creating more collaborative opportunities. It was agreed that it is important to secure representation from units across campus such as Residence Life, Office of Faculty Development, University Relations, and/or Student Activities and Leadership Programs. Strategic conversations with Deans, Chairs, or Directors can help identify aspiring advocates.

Pete noted that a core leadership group is vital, for providing general ground rules for committees and as a data collection source for subcommittees. Subcommittees can be empowered to take on specific issues, particular tasks based on interests and expertise as they build capacity within the university. He suggested that the PUSC committee members meet as a whole to discuss this change in PUSC structure and then as a group indentify the topical areas and passions that are options for subcommittee engagement. Potential subcommittees could be Nonmotorized Transportation, STARS, Graduate Program Curriculum, Facilities, Stormwater Retention, and Permaculture and Food.

As the discussion continued, it was agreed draft guidelines for subcommittees should be developed. Each subcommittee should have designated leaders and 1-2 achievable goals. Under this new structure, the PUSC generally would meet quarterly and the leaders of each subcommittee would report on individual group progress.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.
Next meeting November 21, 2013.