President’s Universitywide Sustainability Committee (PUSC) Minutes
Draft Minutes of November 21, 2013
Office for Sustainability

Welcome and Introductions
Members: Chris Caprara, Anne Copeland, Harold Glasser, Derek Kanwischer, Denise Keele, Carolyn Noack, Leah Omilion-Hodges, Tim Palmer, Paul Pancella, Jeff Spoelstra
Guest: Jun-Seok Oh, Scott Smith

Procedural Items

Approval of Minutes
The October 17th, 2013 member attendees did not achieve a quorum and could not approve the September, 19th PUSC meeting minutes. A motion to approve both sets of minutes (Sept. and Oct.) was put forward by Glasser; seconded by Pancella; and minutes both sets of minutes were approved.

Approval of Agenda
Motion by Glasser to approve the November agenda; seconded by Pancella; and the agenda was approved.

Welcome and Introductions
We extend a warm welcome to Jun-Seok Oh, Professor of Civil & Construction Engineering, and Scott Smith, Assistant Professor of Geography, as guests at this PUSC meeting.

Updates/Discussion
Office for Sustainability Highlights
A review of 2012-2013 sustainability projects and achievements was presented by Jeff Spoelstra. Highlights of the presentation included an account of projects ranging from permaculture and community gardens, to nonmotorized transportation research, EcoMug distribution, and Student Sustainability Grant projects. Additional updates included the Gibbs House landscape redesign, the university’s Climate Action Plan, and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as progress toward infusing sustainability across the curriculum and research including content, pedagogy, and context. The presentation can be viewed here: http://www.wmich.edu/sustainability/reports-publications/office-sustainability-publications.

PUSC Future Direction
In previous discussions regarding PUSC’s future direction, committee members where informed of potential changes in the PUSC meeting schedule. As the university deepens is commitments to advance sustainability in all areas, the current PUSC meeting cycle will be adjusted to create space for action groups or subcommittees that will focus on key sustainability indicators. Members reviewed suggested subcommittees that could focus on climate action plan implementation, stormwater management, food, and administrative policy alignment, among other ideas. A brief discussion followed. It was advised that each subcommittee develop its own goals. The Office will draft guidelines for subcommittees. Each subcommittee would have identified leaders and 1-2 achievable goals addressing relevant indicators. Under this new structure, the PUSC committee of the whole would meet quarterly and the leaders of each subcommittee would report on individual group progress during a portion of the meetings. The OIS will continue to solicit feedback from PUSC members and other sustainability working groups (e.g., the sustainability faculty learning community) to move these changes forward.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm
Next meeting - to be decided