Opening

The regular meeting of the StART II FLC was called to order at 4 pm on February 27, 2013 in the Office for Sustainability by Bill Davis and Heather McGee.

Originating Membership

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Present

Participants: Kevin High, Paul Farber, Lisa Whittaker
Guests: Kim Juwong

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

Open Issues

Lisa Whittaker: What is sustainability literacy?
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Fair trade; practices that contribute to social well-being of individuals, communities, and societies; health and wellness; bridging the gap between privilege and oppression

Paul Farber: What is earth literacy? What is sustainability? It is used in many different ways and contexts. Working on re-conceptualizing core courses in education MA programs in College of Ed. Sustainability grounded in things that people want to sustain, which is a broad and difficult concept. Sustainability functions as a criterion of a sense of justice. A core component of sustainability is the capacity to reflect on the things we care about – how do we sustain the things we care most about? How do they intersect? How
do we reconcile differences between what we care about and what others care about? How do the things that WMU students care about from first year to graduation?

Lisa Whittaker: Sustainability is a difficult concept – like “assessment,” we all have to do it be we can’t define it. Content of courses is not very flexible in aviation. Introduce students to people who are invested in the sustainability field; let them determine what they what to learn/ what they can discover. Everything seems to have a positive and negative implication for sustainability. Raising students’ level of consciousness of sustainability should be the focus of higher ed, which may be difficult in the classroom.

Bill: Utilizing neighbors, community resources (Nature Center, etc.) in efforts to introduce students to sustainability. Reciprocity in working with these groups – invite them to campus. Take students off campus and ask them to adopt the things they've learned outside of the classroom and bring it back into the classroom. Takes students to art museum to see their waste practices. What are the things in Kalamazoo that students can be exposed to?

Lisa: Living learning lab in Battle Creek that students could visit, collaboration with the Kalamazoo Airport.

Emphasis on student-driven ideas, hands-on learning

Lisa: Could the PUSC initiate a mini-conference where students are invited to present their sustainability work and projects? A student sustainability conference? Any ideas and projects would be welcome; students would have to submit proposals.

Heather and Paul: There are student conferences in their departments.

Fetzer Center or Sangren for a possible conference venue?

Developing a course before October is not realistic; incorporating sustainability into already existing courses and promoting sustainability may be a more practical route. A good place to start might be an “Intro to Sustainability” course.

New Business

Bill to email web address for FLC resource page on sustainability website.

Agenda for Next Meeting

List the items to be discussed at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:21 pm by Bill Davis and Heather McGee. The next general meeting will be at 4 – 5:30 pm on March 13, 2013, in the Office for Sustainability. Minutes submitted by: Kimberly Juwong
Approved by: [Name]