President’s Universitywide Sustainability Committee (PUSC) Minutes

Minutes of October 21 2010
Room 205, Bernhard Center

Members Present: Suhashni Datta-Sandhu, Bill Davis, Paul Farber, Judith Gipper, Harold Glasser, Matthew Hollander, Patricia Holton, Paul Pancella, John Patten, Joel Raveloharimisy, Lowell Rinker (Ex Officio), Anand Sankey, Alyssa Schafer, John Schmitt, Pete Strazdas (Ex Officio), Caroline Webber (Ex Officio), and Barbara Wygant.

Guests: David Ruff, GSAC, and Zachary Waas Smith, SSE & GHERE.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Motion by Farber to shorten Agenda and adjourn early for President Dunn’s post HLC address; seconded by Pancella; Agenda changed and approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Motion by Schmitt to approve the Minutes as presented; seconded by Holton; Minutes approved.

QUICK UPDATES
ANAND: ENERGY STAR Rating for Campus Buildings
WMU has recently been awarded the ENERGY STAR rating on select campus buildings.

PRESENTATION
HAROLD: "How Far Have We Come—and Where Do We Go From Here?"
Dr. Glasser gave a brief status report on our progress in relation to the goals set forth in the Strategic Sustainability Initiatives Report and outlined some of the work ahead. He refined these materials (with comments from PUSC members) and presented them at the Provost’s Council on November 9. These documents follow (on the Strategic Sustainability Initiatives Update, GREEN denotes initiatives that have been completed or are very well along, YELLOW denotes initiatives that are in progress, and RED denotes initiatives that are just beginning to be addressed or have not been addressed yet).

The October PUSC meeting was adjourned at 3:55 to allow members to attend President Dunn’s HLC Review Summary Address.

Upcoming meeting: Bernhard 205, Thursday November 18 at 3 pm.
WMU Office for Sustainability: Mission and Goals

September 3, 2010

Mission

The mission of the Office for Sustainability is to guide and assist the Western Michigan University community in fulfilling and growing its sustainability commitments. Through building a diverse and flourishing learning community around sustainability, we will continually explore and develop new opportunities to create a culture of sustainability and improve quality of life for all.

Goals

• Make Western Michigan University a national higher education sustainability leader
• Identify and help implement innovative and cost-effective strategies for reducing WMU’s ecocultural wake, which span all of our policies, programs, and activities
• Facilitate interdisciplinary and cross-college collaboration, research, and inquiry around sustainability
• Encourage and support weaving sustainability and climate change education into existing curriculum
• Assist in the development and implementation of new undergraduate and graduate sustainability courses, certificates, and degree programs
• Support active learning and real-world problem solving through student sustainability research, internships, and co-curricular activities
• Graduate knowledgeable, open-minded, well-prepared, and engaged planetary stewards
• Serve as a resource and advocate for sustainability on campus and in the community, region, and state
• Collaborate with all Offices and Colleges across campus to secure resources for these efforts
• Report regularly and transparently on both our achievements and shortcomings in these endeavors

¹These commitments include, but are not limited to:

1. Goals Statement of the WMU Mission—“To advance responsible environmental stewardship”:
   http://www.wmich.edu/about/mission/
2. Environmental Mission approved by the Faculty Senate and Western Students Association (2003)—Appendix 1 (p. 11) of the PUSC’s 2009 Strategic Sustainability Initiatives Report:
3. WMU 2010 Academic Affairs Strategic Plan—Goal 1. Strategy 1.1, “The faculty will continually examine curricula and course content, including general education, to ensure that the following skills, knowledge, and attitudes are integrated into undergraduate education.” “Environmental sustainability” is element four in a series of ten:
4. Talloires Declaration, signed January, 2008—Appendix 2 (p. 12-13) of the PUSC’s 2009 Strategic Sustainability Initiatives Report:
   http://www.wmich.edu/sustainability/pdf/initiatives-report.pdf and
   http://www.ulsf.org/pdf/TD.pdf
5. American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, signed July 2009:
   http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/about/commitment
<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>CAMPUS CATEGORY</strong></th>
<th><strong>RECOMMENDED INITIATIVES</strong></th>
<th><strong>TECHNICAL (T) or PLANNED (P)</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>I. Governance &amp; Administrative</td>
<td>1. Create a single structure for coordinating and implementing campus sustainability initiatives that transcends academics and operations and reports directly to the President.</td>
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<td>2. Perform and Institutionalize a Campus Sustainability Assessment process, which is directly tied to improving practice and policy (see the Campus Sustainability Assessment Project Website for details: <a href="http://csap.envs.wmich.edu/pages/res_guidelines.html">http://csap.envs.wmich.edu/pages/res_guidelines.html</a>)</td>
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<td>3. Review the WMU Master Plan with an emphasis on addressing and improving campus sustainability (biennially or annually).</td>
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<td>II. Operations &amp; In-reach</td>
<td>1. Develop a comprehensive campus food-waste reduction strategy and policies. This includes creating a campus composting pilot as a prelude to creating a full-scale composting system.</td>
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<td>2. Model green building principles when developing new residential life opportunities.</td>
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<td>3. Review and improve the Campus Recycling Program &amp; the Trash to Treasures Program (make recycling more accessible, increase bin availability, etc.).</td>
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<td>4. Begin phasing in battery electric, hybrid, &amp; plug-in HE vehicles into the WMU fleet.</td>
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<td>5. Review campus water-saving measures and water use with an eye toward creating a new, comprehensive campus water reduction plan and policies.</td>
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<td>III. Community Service &amp; Outreach</td>
<td>1. Create a cooperative, community sustainability planning initiative starting with local governments &amp; educational institutions in Portage and Kalamazoo (preliminary discussions are now underway to launch this effort by starting with exchanging best-practices).</td>
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<td>2. Integrate sustainability into Student Orientation materials &amp; offerings (use peer outreach).</td>
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<td>3. Create monthly or bimonthly Campus Sustainability Roundtables (possibly at lunch) open to the entire campus community, sponsored by the President’s Office.</td>
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<td>4. Educate Residence Hall Directors on sustainability issues and opportunities.</td>
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<td>IV. Curriculum</td>
<td>1. Following WMU’s “General Principles of Curriculum Change” (GPrCC) &amp; using the online Curriculum Change Guide, integrate sustainability into all curricula &amp; throughout every College.</td>
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<td>2. Create more opportunities for structured internships, projects, theses, etc., for students to collaborate with staff, administrators, and faculty to address key campus sustainability issues.</td>
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<td>3. Create Summer Faculty Development Workshops for facilitating integration and infusion of sustainability throughout the curriculum (one possibility would be to start with the FYS).</td>
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<td>4. Following WMU’s GPrCC, develop new environment- &amp; sustainability-oriented degree combinations, minors, &amp; concentrations (examples include: Green Business &amp; ENVS; Ecological Engineering/Green Design &amp; ENVS; Education for Sustainable Development/Environmental Education &amp; ENVS; etc.). Special opportunities exist for new/restructured undergraduate &amp; graduate programs in “Green Materials, Design, Energy, &amp; Manufacturing” &amp; “Education for Sustainability Teacher Training”.</td>
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<td>V. Research (Unprioritized list)*</td>
<td>• Create a focused, coordinated effort between OVPR &amp; the Development Office to expand external funding for sustainability research and teaching.</td>
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<td>• Create a new Cross-College “Center for Interdisciplinary Sustainability Research, Teaching, Operations, and Outreach.</td>
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<td>• Create a Green Materials, Design, Energy, &amp; Manufacturing Research Center.</td>
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<td>• Explore strategies for developing a “Green Technology” focus for future BTR park occupants.</td>
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<td>• Perform a baseline and follow-up study of a campus building after a green renovation to assess worker/student productivity effects with green buildings.</td>
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<td>• Develop competitive research grants for student sustainability research projects.</td>
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*This list is unprioritized because research is a special category. The PUSC Research Subcommittee believes that in order to initiate a successful sustainability research initiative, WMU will have to address two sets of issues (Structural & Strategic) before attempting to prioritize a list of potential research opportunities.
WMU Office for Sustainability: What We Have Done, What We Are Doing, and What We Will Do

November 5, 2010

What we have done:

• Improved 2011 Sustainable Endowments Institute Report Card to a B+ (Received a B in 2010 and C- in 2009)

• Completed or made significant progress on the majority of the initiatives in categories I-III outlined in the President’s Universitywide Sustainability Committee’s (PUSC) Strategic Sustainability Initiatives Report

• Created a Mission and Goals for the new Office for Sustainability

• Brought Maureen Hart to campus to lecture and run a highly attended workshop on Community Sustainability Indicators—and produced a report from these events.

• Secured funding from the Clean Energy Coalition (re-granted from DoE) for a 30 kW grid-intertied PV array to support electric vehicle infrastructure and with advanced vehicles

• Fulfilled ACUPCC requirements for 2010 and created a Green House Gas Emissions Report for WMU

• Identified a permanent location for the Office for Sustainability (on Oakland Ave.) and initiated planning and program development

• Produced a Survey Instrument and Report to guide the progress of the Southwest Michigan Regional Sustainability Covenant Signatories

• Brought two student workers and our Acting Program Director to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Meeting in Denver (Oct. 10-12) to lead to lecture/seminars and present two posters

• Created a Sustainability Across the Curriculum Luncheon that was widely attended by faculty form all colleges (original cap was 40, but due to the level of interest we expanded it to 56)

• Hired 15 student workers that are tremendously dedicated and very excited about working on projects to advance our goals and mission

• September 15, 2010—received keys for our temporary offices in Faunce Hall and began creating a physical presence for the Office for Sustainability

What we are doing:

• Building the Office for Sustainability in Faunce Hall (temporary offices) to create a campus-wide learning community around sustainability and help build a culture of sustainability (one of President Dunn’s Three Pillars)

• Working closely with the Faculty Senate and the PUSC to create a plan for advancing the Sustainability Across the Curriculum

• Collaborating with WSA, its Sustainability Chair, and GSAC to formalize the process for the Student Sustainability Grants process (to be announced around Thanksgiving)

• Working with HR to hire two positions for the Office for Sustainability: Office Coordinator and Program Coordinator
• Collaborating with the Graduate College, the Evaluation, Measurement, and Research Program, and the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Evaluation Program to identify a suitable GA for the winter semester.

• Working with the PUSC to translate the Office’s Mission and Goals into Strategies for fulfilling them and Indicators for measuring progress

• Meeting with Deans and top administrators throughout WMU to share what we are doing, explore opportunities for collaboration, and seek their guidance for improving our efforts to build a culture of sustainability

• Hired a web-developer to create a Drupal CMS website for the Office for Sustainability that will contain up-to-date information on campus sustainability activities and initiatives, an “idea” database to facilitate collaboration on sustainability teaching and research, online application forms for Student Sustainability Grants, Internships, Ambassadors, etc.

• Creating the Wesustain Ambassadors Program with Student Affairs and Facilities Management.

• Creating the Wesustain Internship Program

• Collaborating with the Design Center to develop the Office for Sustainability’s Identity and create various marketing materials.

• Collaborating with the Seita Scholars Program to train six Seita Scholars (some through Work Study and others that don’t have work Study are being financed through the Office for Sustainability)

• Re-building the management structure and education programs of the Gibbs House for Environmental Research and Education

• Improving the EcoMug Program distribution, management, tracking, and promotion systems.

• Working on creating an annual Student Survey that will identify sustainability initiatives that are of great interest to students (to be conducted in Jan. 2011)

• Continuing to support and guide implementation of the Southwest Michigan Regional Sustainability Covenant through WMU’s Sustainable Communities Initiative

• Developing a Sustainable Paper Purchasing Policy for WMU in cooperation with the Paper Technology Foundation

• Working with a variety of corporate donors, foundations, and federal/state funding agencies to expand support for campus sustainability initiatives

What we will do:

• As capacity grows, expand efforts to seek support from corporate donors, foundations, and federal/state funding agencies to expand support for campus sustainability initiatives

• Transition the PUSC back to its original advisory role and create area specific subcommittees

• Develop a Climate Action Plan by Oct. 2011 (ACUPCC requirement)

• Implement and Institutionalize a Campus Sustainability Assessment Process

• Refine and expand our programs

• Produce an Office for Sustainability Annual Report to document our accomplishments and share them with the university community and beyond

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