

In attendance: Christian Ryan-Downing, John Osborne, Greg Fear, Terry Wilson, Sara Ferguson, Cristin Lanham, Dale Dyer, Tammi Beach, Jennifer Tougas, Denise Gravitt, Helen Siewers, Nancy Givens, Mark Pendley, John Coe, Ron Rizzo, Anita Britt, and Seth Cude

1. Energy Policy update:

The Energy Policy was presented to the Administrative Council on Monday, Feb 23rd along with two documents: *Utilities Budget Overview and Current Status* and *Energy Policy and Action Plan*. (both documents and current draft of Energy Policy are available on Blackboard documents file.)

We asked the Administrative Council to review and adopt the policy and expressed that immediate adoption and implementation of the Policy, along with an awareness and education campaign, and emphasis on the six priorities outlined in the Action Plan, could result in additional savings that could offset the current utilities budget deficit.

President Ransdell advised the Council to review the Policy and submit edits and revisions by this weekend. He asked that we return to the Administrative Council this Monday to proceed with adoption of the Policy. The new Policy will be released with press coverage, and emails from the President to faculty, staff and students, with a goal of reducing energy use by a determined amount. The Council asked that we maintain a website, as we did for the holiday shut down, to provide feedback to the campus community on our progress.

Mark and Nancy discussed the fact that stimulus and grant funding opportunities are currently available (and additional opportunities are coming) and that we need to take advantage of opportunities for funding long-term approaches to energy efficiency (retrofits and alternative energies), as well as applying campus expertise to these initiatives, such as ISCET R&D. Nancy will post information on Blackboard regarding grants for collaborative, large-scale efforts and the Fundraising committee will plan a meeting with community leaders to discuss further.

2. Awareness/education campaign to promote/accompany Energy Policy:

Members of the WKU Sustainability Committee have discussed in the past a need for a sub-committee to work on outreach and education. With the adoption of the Energy Policy and related conservation campaign, we want to create this subcommittee immediately. The subcommittee would work on outreach and education for other Sustainability Committee initiatives as well, providing overall outreach and education for the Committee's work. Christian will create a subcommittee group on Blackboard. Committee members interested in serving on this sub-committee so far include Terry Wilson, Helen Siewers, Sara Ferguson, John Coe, and others to be determined. If you are interested, contact Christian.

Several ideas were discussed for possible outreach/engagement such as departmental challenges, a newsletter, inefficient appliance trade-ins, and others. Terry explained that there is a difference between informing and educating, and stressed the need for telling stories of success.

3. Green Idea contest, Innovation in Sustainability Endowment – presented by Seth Cude:

The Green Idea contest is a kick-off to an annual program supported by the Innovation in Sustainability Endowment, which was established with the prize money from the Chase Go Green contest, won by GreenToppers with leadership from Seth Cude, and matched by the Bucks for Brains program. The first contest is for ideas, but in coming years, the funding will be for grants for idea and implementation. Seth asked that the greater committee form a subcommittee to review submissions for this initial idea contest, and for future grant proposals. The committee will include GreenToppers advisors Ouida Meier and Christian Downing and Dr. John All, who advises students in the Sustainability Program of Study. Information on the Innovation in Sustainability Endowment and supported projects will be posted on Blackboard in documents folder.

4. Update from subcommittees:

Sustainability Fundraising subcommittee, chaired by Nancy Givens – Nancy reports this committee is working on the creation of a “Green Development Fund”. The funds would be dedicated to three areas: greening campus initiatives, student engagement and research with community partners, and curriculum development. Contributions to the fund may come in the form of grants or donations. Amy Hardin serves on the committee and is assisting with setting up a payroll deduction contribution option. Paula Jarbo will assist with guidelines and rules for the Fund, and the development office is helping to create a promotional brochure that describes the goals and objectives of the Fund.

Jennifer discussed the idea of adding an option for contribution on the on-line parking permit purchasing site. It could be a few dollars to help “offset” the individual’s parking and transportation footprint.

The possibility of a student “green fee” added to tuition was discussed but in light of current economic pressures, and recent increases in tuition, discussion was tabled for later date.

Pollution Prevention subcommittee – Greg reports that the committee is currently looking at all sources of pollution, including air, water, and solid waste and working on prioritizing issues to work on. Mark reports that EPA mandates are going to be of increasing concern, and that we need to be proactive in anticipating such mandates.

Several committee members are meeting with a representative of Creative Recycling Solutions this week. The company has recently contracted with the commonwealth to handle electronic waste. WKU has limited capacity to recycle such waste.

Pollution Prevention subcommittee members Greg and Helen recently met with a green roof expert. This expert will be presenting about green roofs to PD&C on April 1st – Helen will send an email reminder for those who wish to attend.

5. Update on Energy Savings Performance Contract – John and Dale

Johnson Controls is currently in audit phase, and will likely be ready to present proposals for review in May or June. John anticipates that updates (implementation) could start within one year.

6. New business-

Many issues that we are currently working to address can ultimately be traced back to purchasing decisions. The new Energy Policy includes a section on sustainable purchasing and guidelines include purchasing energy efficient equipment. Many recycling and solid waste issues can be addressed in purchasing. For this reason, a subcommittee or task force will be formed to work on a Sustainable Purchasing Policy and purchasing guidelines. Christian will create a group on Blackboard. If you are interested in serving on this committee, or would like to nominate someone outside the Sustainability Committee, please contact Christian