

Sustainability Committee Minutes

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Attendance:

Christian Ryan-Downing	Nancy Givens	Sharmila Pradhan	Ken Kuehn
David Baskett	Helen Siewers	Jennifer Tougas	Thea Browder
Meredith Tooley	Dale Dyer	Gordon Baylis	Ouida Meier
Eric Reed	John Osborne	Brian Sullivan	Caroline Anderson

Agenda for Sustainability Committee – Sept 22, 2011

Info items:

1. New committee members – introductions

- a. Introductions of new members, volunteers in attendance and review of how and why the Sustainability Committee was created.
- b. There are still two vacant student seats on the committee. One will be filled by a representative for SGA, one may be filled by a Green Campus Intern. If you have any suggestions of other students please let Christian know.

2. Sustainability website

- a. Christian showed everyone the Office of Sustainability website and the wealth of information that can be found on it.

3. Green Campus Network (Ashley McCloughan)

- a. WKU was chosen as one of six campuses in the TVA region to serve in the Green Campus Network, receiving funding for 4 Green Campus Interns to work on energy conservation and efficiency projects. Ashley McCloughan was introduced to the group as the Lead Green Campus Network Intern. She will be joining us at future meetings. Please support these interns in any way possible, as the Sustainability Committee is their stakeholder support network.

4. Green Tour (Helen Siewers)

- a. Work has progressed on the signs for the Green Tour. Helen Siewers has been working with Leslie North to create the signage for the karst elements of the tour, and Leslie has proposed creating a class project to complete the next phase of the signs this spring. There are currently 9 signs in production. The Green Tour is also being added to the Interactive WKU Map. Dr. Baylis suggested putting QR codes on the signs to use with Smartphones. Suggestions were also given to add the Green Tour to Four Square and to promote this to the local school systems.

5. AASHE STARS –WKU bronze rating

- a. WKU received Bronze rating in the AASHE STARS program. This is a three-year rating program. We have found that we are doing great things but we are sometimes not recording the information correctly to be report to STARS. Christian has challenged us to look at the report and to see where each of the committee members can make improvements/help with our deficits on the report.

Action items - Goal setting for 2011/2012:

1. Education for Sustainability –

- a. steering committee (Nancy Givens update)
- b. Digital Measures (Nancy Givens update)
- c. Nancy Givens passed out two pieces of information: *The Global Sustainability Education Curriculum Initiative* and *A Strategic Plan for Sustainability and Education for Sustainability (EFS) at WKU*. During her discussion she gave some background of Education for Sustainability and spoke about the future. This discussion will continue as we get more information from Dr. Baylis.
- d. Dr. Baylis remarks? Dr. Baylis stated at this time he is not sure what direction he wants to go for Education for Sustainability. He is committed to the concept but needs more time to research the topic and will report back to us at a later meeting.

2. Strategic Plan (John Osborne)

- a. Christian passed out a copy of the Summary of Strategic Goals and Objectives. We were all asked to review the plan and come up with better language, improved activities, and objectives for the plan. Mr. Osborne will be finding out the timeline so we know when to have our ideas submitted to Christian.

3. Goals for 2011-2012

- a. Christian and Mr. Osborne asked us to use the AASHE STARS report and the Strategic plan to create our goals for the upcoming year as a committee. We will be having more dialogue about this over email and in future meetings. It was suggested that we have lunch once a month when we do not have meetings. This can be an informal meeting time to work on various projects.

4. Homework

- a. Look at the Summary of Strategic Goals and Objectives. Especially pay attention to Strategic Goal 2 and look at ways to improve the language, and create new activities and objectives. Christian will be asking for this information once Mr. Osborne gives her the timeline.
- b. Review the AASHE Stars report and identify where each of us can make a difference or add to the report to increase our reporting and ratings. Please email these ideas to Christian.

Other business:

2011 calendar dates (tentative)

October 3 – 31 – Reduce Your Use!

October 3 – Reduce Your Use! kick off

6:00 South Lawn

October 19 - Whitney Stanford - *Growing Stories from India – Gender, Religion, and the Fate of Agriculture* sponsored by the Social Responsibility & Sustainable Communities Gender and Women's Studies 5:45 pm Garrett Ballroom

October 20 - *Butterfly* - co-sponsored by Social Responsibility and Sustainable Communities program (SRSC) Presenter: Christian Ryan-Downing, University Sustainability Coordinator 7:00pm CH 125

'Dinner in the Dark' (details TBD) – Restaurant and Catering Group

'The Night the Lights Went Out' (details TBD) - HRL

October 25 – Plarn (plastic bag yarn) weaving workshop. Turn those pesky plastic shopping bags into amazing baskets, rugs, and yoga mats! - WKU Recycling and guest plarn weaver Cristin Lanham. 10:00–11:30 am Faculty House

October 26 – Campus Sustainability Day – schedule of activities coming soon but to include WKU Green Tour

Rain barrel making workshop (details TBD) – WKU Sustainability

AID film screening (details TBD) – WKU AID