

MINUTES

Advisory Council on Stewardship and Sustainability – Steering Committee

Thursday, April 21, 2011 12:10-1:10pm

College Hall 402

In Attendance: Monica Bartlett (co-chair), Brian Henning (co-chair), Erik Horngren, Thomas Whitney, Ken Sammons, Gary Chang, Anastasia Wendlinder, Tim Hatcher, Andrea Bertotti-Metoyer, Pat Ferro

1. Dr. Henning began the meeting by giving an update on Honeywell's proposal for the carbon calculator workshop. The workshop would cost about \$1000 per person and is not financially feasible for the committee at this time. However, there was discussion of getting a group together to explore the different kinds of carbon calculators and their functions as the committee moves forward with climate action planning next year.
2. Dr. Bartlett advanced a motion for the Steering Committee's consideration regarding a paperless process for the faculty promotion and tenure process, which process currently takes up to 11 binders worth of different papers, forms, and documents. Many other institutions have already made a similar transition with their promotion and tenure applications. After some discussion among members, it was agreed that voting on the motion would be done via email.
3. Dr. Henning gave an update on the proposed Green Purchasing Policy. The policy is currently being reviewed by Executive Vice President Martin and he has sent each portion of it out for review to the appropriate group (i.e. custodial, dining services, grounds/maintenance, etc). EVP Martin said he will make suggestions for revision. EVP Martin said he wanted the policy to work in conjunction with part of a broader plan, to be a component of a multifaceted, well strategized plan to promote sustainability, so there was some discussion as to whether the Green Purchasing Policy should stand on its own or be part of some larger sustainability plan for the University.
4. Dr. Henning recapped a meeting he and Dr. Bartlett had with the incoming student body president, Tyler Hobbs, regarding the creation of a "Student Green Fund." Ideas that have been considered include having an opt-out method for collecting \$3-5 per semester from students to help with the implementation and completion of student driven sustainability related projects. A meeting with relevant constituents may be held this summer to discuss the idea of the Student Green Fund further. Incoming student body president Hobbs said he would help administer a survey of students at the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year. In addition, GEO will put forth a petition to help generate student support and awareness for the fund.

5. Dr. Bartlett informed the group that the survey from the Sierra Club for 2011, ranking schools based on how they are promoting more green and sustainable actions among students, faculty and staff on their campus, has been completed.
6. Dr. Henning gave an overview of a rough draft of a year-end report that he put together recapping all that the ACSS has done this year. The report is essentially a synthesis of committee minutes and includes a mission statement, membership list, a summary of council duties and actions, and a list of goals for the council moving forward. The draft report will be circulated to members for comment and will be submitted to the President by May 2.
7. Lastly, there was discussion of membership for the Steering Committee for next year. As it stands now, there are more faculty who want to be on the Steering Committee than there are spots available, so a vote needs to take place. There was debate over whether those who serve on the Steering Committee should have to chair a subcommittee; some believed this was essential for continuity between the Steering Committee and subcommittees while others worried this might turnoff some people from wanting to join the steering committee. There was also discussion over what responsibilities should apply to other faculty members of the ACSS, be they general members, committee members, subcommittee members, or chairs. It was decided that next year, additional ACSS bylaws should be drafted to clarify these points. Some clarification may be made this year before a vote for faculty representation on the Steering Committee takes place.