

# Minutes

## Advisory Council on Stewardship and Sustainability

February 17, 2009 12:00-12:45pm

Road to Utopia Room, Crosby Center

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*In Attendance:* Monica Bartlett (co-chair), Brian Henning (co-chair), Dan Bradley, Jace Bylenga, Jillian Cadwell, Todd Dunfield, Tim Hatcher, Jon Isacoff, Erica Johnson, Brian Steverson, Michael Treleavan, Anastasia Wendlinder, Allen Patty, Ken Sammons, Rozalyn Sippel, Tim Woodward, Charles Wesley, Brittany Jarnot, Kyle Van Dyke, Maggie Zaback

(Refer to the Council portion of [www.gonazaga.edu/sustainability](http://www.gonazaga.edu/sustainability) for information on member affiliation and for the composition of the ACSS Steering Committee)

*Absent:* Julie Beckstead, John Caputo, Seth Coleman, Gemma D'Ambruoso, Chris Frankovich, Gail Hammer, Kevin Henrickson, Hugh Lefcort, Steve Lunden, Tod Marshall, Gilbert Moreno, John Shea, S.J. Michael Woods, S.J., Andrea Woods

1. The meeting convened at 12:04pm.
2. After introductions, Co-Chair Brian Henning briefly recounted the history of the committee and explained the steering committee.

In response to a question about why this is called a steering committee instead of an executive committee, Brian and co-chair Monica Bartlett explained that the title of the steering committee was chosen to convey a less-hierarchical structure, and that this language was approved by the President's Cabinet.

Brian then went over the duties of the steering committee and it was discussed that some of the most difficult but important work of the ACSS was educating the GU community on sustainability and changing habits. He then talked briefly about the ACSS website.

3. Monica explained the surveys that have already been e-mailed to students and will be sent to faculty and staff in the immediate future. The purpose of the surveys is to inform the committee as to what is going on, rate opinions, etc. In total, 567 student surveys were returned. There will be about a 2 week window for faculty and staff to answer the surveys. The issue of whether the staff should be sent paper copies of the survey came up in case it might be difficult for staff members to access computers, but Ken Sammons of Plant Services responded that he felt all staff members do have adequate computer access.
4. Monica then brought up the topic of general membership and what that means. Meetings are only to be called when needed, e-mail communication will be used as much as possible. Anastasia Wendlinder asked how we will we communicate via e-mail as a group; two possibilities that came up were to obtain an e-mail alias or access to Blackboard. Brian will look into this.

A member reiterated a point (previous sent by e-mail to the Steering Committee) that membership should be contingent on participation on a sub-committee. There were several members who supported this idea, but further discussion on exactly what subcommittees are to be formed is needed. No decision was made.

5. Monica then read the description of the Waste Reduction Sub-committee that has already been approved by the Steering Committee, and informed us that Andrea Bertotti Metoyer responded to the call for self-nomination to Chair the WRS. The Steering Committee will vote on her nomination via e-mail.
6. A member raised the question of the ACSS identity: what packets of advice or information do we give and to whom do we give it? What services might we provide? Do we want to integrate a university-wide vision? Brian responded that we will be responsible for responding to both internal and external requests for information or policy review, but that the ACSS will also establish its own agenda. The surveys will help determine where we need to go and what our agenda for the next year will be, and asked members to reflect on this as we go forward. Brian solicited ideas for how to handle this until all the surveys are in and analyzed, and general comments from various members led to the agreement that information should be gathered through informal conversation, which shall be a topic of the Steering Committee's first meeting.

One question was raised about state and local regulations and how this might affect our efforts, for example regarding recycling or emissions. General discussion seemed to move towards consultation with relevant campus groups for this information.

7. Brian made the closing statement that one thing the ACSS wants to do is to broadcast the good work Gonzaga is already doing regarding Stewardship and Sustainability and to find out what more we can do as a community.
8. The meeting adjourned at 12:45pm. Future meetings of the full ACSS will be set as needed.

#### **Action Items**

- a) Investigate a communication tool that will allow Council members to communicate effectively (e.g., list-serv, blackboard, email alias). – **Brian**
- b) Complete distribution and evaluation of surveys to students, faculty, and staff. – **Monica**
- c) Finish establishment of Waste Reduction Subcommittee – **Andrea**