

Environmental Issues Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 7, 2011

Noon-1 p.m.

Rogue River Room, EMU

MEMBERS PRESENT

Peg Gearhart (Chair)—Oregon Humanities Center

Jennifer Ellis—Finance

Heather Brinton—Law

Christian Pich—Neuroscience

Chris Jones—Sustainable Cities Initiative

Meg Mattson—Education

Fred Tepfer—Campus Planning and Real Estate

Sophie Luthin—student

Ellen Inagmells—student

Chris Ramey/Christine Thompson—Campus Planning and Real Estate (Ex Officio)

Doug Brooke—Environmental Health and Safety (Ex Officio)

Steve Mital—Office of Sustainability (Ex Officio)

Louisa de Heer—Student Sustainability Center (Ex Officio)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ramah Leith—Health Center

Colin Ives—Art

Alan Dickman—Biology/Environmental Studies

Nathan Howard—student

DECISIONS TAKEN

- Peg Gearhart will ask George Hecht, the Associate Vice President for Campus Operations, to attend a future EIC meeting
- Fred Tepfer made a motion to move that the decision making process to the EIC with the recommendation that more students are invited to discuss the proposal in a suitable venue. The motion passed 6 to 1 with 1 abstention
- Steve Mital will send out a draft green Office Certification of the certification for EIC members to evaluate
- Steve Mital will poll EIC members by email for other agenda items

WELCOME AND SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

Peg Gearhart welcomed the committee and asked members to introduce themselves.

REVIEW OF EIC CHARGE AND RESPONSIBILITIES, MEMBERS, AND REPORTING

Peg Gearhart reviewed the mission and responsibilities of the committee as well as addressing membership and reporting

REVIEW OF RECENT EIC SUPPORTED INITIATIVES: COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY (CEP) and CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (CAP)

Steve Mital reported on the updated comprehensive environmental policy (CEP) which the EIC reviewed and updated last year. The vote to approve the final wording of the EIC report was reviewed by Vice-

president's France Dyke where it was met with support. Individual meetings with directors that will have implementation responsibilities will take place this fall after which the policy will be submitted to the President. Once this process is complete, the EIC may be called in to review sub-policies and plans.

EIC reviewed the climate action plan (CAP) two to three years ago. The plan was signed two years ago and has been in a process of implementation since then—mainly in the form of the Oregon model of sustainable design. The plan works by submitting reports to an external body that tracks CAPs from universities from across the country. The climate action plan will be updated this year and as that work begins to come together, Steve will bring it to the EIC.

GOALS FOR 2011-2012

Peg Gearhart and Steve Mital proposed some ideas for the EIC 2011-2012:

- Green Office Certification program which Steve introduced at the end of the meeting
- Reviewing UO's Revolving Loan Fund program structure

The University has signed the Billion Dollar Green Challenge and will create a \$1 million revolving green loan fund to support the Oregon Model for Sustainable Design. The fund must be up-and-running by October, 2012. The EIC will serve as a review committee for the program structure. Peg Gearhart will invite George Hecht, the Associate Vice President for Campus Operations, to attend a future EIC meeting. Peg and Steve fielded some questions and comments about the fund.

- Review of Student Sustainability Fund Proposal Evaluation

Steve Mital gave a brief overview of the fund and how the proposals for the fund were, in the past, reviewed by a student committee. Maintenance of this committee has been problematic to manage given the constraints of student turnover, scheduling issues, and lack of staff involvement. Steve suggested that this responsibility be shifted to the EIC. It has a nice mix of faculty, staff, and students and can provide comprehensive advice to the Vice President for Student Affairs. Steve had mentioned the proposal to the Vice President who oversees the fund and since he had not heard back directly on the issues, was moving forward—which Peg Gearhart agreed with.

Some EIC committee members expressed concern with this proposal, feeling that there would be loss of student representation. Steve responded to these concerns by asserting that the student experience is more focused on the proposal writing and project implementation. Proposal review will still include students and the final decision is ultimately up to that vice-president. Chris Jones suggested that in order to preserve the original intent of the former committee, the voting members of the EIC would take back seat and that student votes on the committee would be given greater weight. One student recommended inviting more students to the EIC meeting where the proposals were discussed but some committee members felt this suggestion was potentially messy and posed a conflict-of-interest issue.

A number of different solutions proposed to resolve the issue. Fred Tepfer made a motion to move that the decision that EIC review proposals with the recommendation that more students are invited to discuss the proposal in a suitable venue. The motion passed 6 to 1 with 1 abstention.

GREEN OFFICE CERTIFICATION

Steve Mital presented a brief overview of the new Green Office Certification which he hopes the EIC will provide feedback on. Steve will send out a draft of the certification for members to evaluate.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR THE AGENDA

Reviewing carbon Offset purchase for the EMU

STARS Feedback

Other Ideas from Committee members

Educational programs?

NEXT MEETING

TBD . Steve Mital's GTF will take a doodle poll to schedule the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:05pm.