

Environmental Issues Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 12, 2012

Noon-1pm

Metolius Room, EMU

MEMBERS PRESENT

- Peg Gearhart (Chair) – Oregon Humanities Center
- Christian Pich – Neuroscience
- Alan Dickman – Biology/Environmental Studies
- Meg Mattsen – Education
- Fred Tepfer – Campus Planning and Real Estate
- Chris Jones – Sustainable Cities Initiative
- Sophie Luthin – Student
- Nathan Howard – Student
- Louisa de Heer – Student Sustainability Center (Ex Officio)
- Steve Mital – Office of Sustainability (Ex Officio)
- Christine Thompson – Campus Planning and Real Estate (Ex Officio)

MEMBERS ABSENT

- Heather Brinton – Law
- Ramah Leith – Health Center
- Jennifer Ellis – Finance
- Ellen Inagmells – Student
- Doug Brooke – Environmental Health and Safety (Ex Officio)

GUESTS

- Chris Becker – Climate Justice League

DECISIONS TAKEN

- The January meeting minutes were approved. (Stephen Ames name spelling correction.)
- Future meetings will continue to be held monthly with a creative info share component.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (CAP) UPDATE

Steve Mital discussed the CAP. More aggressive goals aren't likely to be adopted without a viable plan to reach them. Steve presented a document titled "Next Steps for UO Climate Action Plan 'Campus as Living Lab' " that outlined a 2012-2013 timeline. The goal is to offer opportunities for students to contribute ideas that may lead to emissions reduction projects. Projects will be identified by a technical team and then shopped to faculty interested in

imbedding service-learning projects into their courses. Student work will be reviewed by the technical team. High quality projects may be forwarded to a paid consultant for an additional review.

The committee raised the question of how these projects will overlap with current course work or SCI. The Living Lab's major difference is that it focuses on internal improvements. The committee discussed the timeline for identifying these projects and marketing them to AAA studio classes and student clubs.

The budgetary requirements for the Campus as Living Lab will require an estimated \$15,000-\$20,000 for the technical team and staff time necessary for identifying projects, securing agreements with faculty, and reviewing student work. Educational lecture series and field trip activities will enrich the student experience but will require additional funding. Campus Operations has committed \$5,000 to date, and two requests for \$35,000 and \$20,000 have been submitted.

CARBON OFFSETS

Louisa de Heer informed the committee that its request for an extension to buy carbon offsets was approved by the student sustainability board for another year. \$8,000 has been earmarked for this purpose and the confirmation document is on file.

STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY FUND GRANT

The board received 12 applications from 10 organizations. The board will be able to fulfill many of the funding requests but is about \$9,000 short of fulfilling them all. One project has already been approved: the OIMB campus requested funding for a basic composting system and a student garden. The board will meet to determine final recommendations and then present them to the VP for Student Affairs. Winners will be announced soon.

EIC AGENDAS AND MEETING SCHEDULES

Peg Gearhart asked the committee to consider a revised meeting schedule and that perhaps monthly meetings are more frequent than necessary. Committee members agreed that the meetings should stay true to its role and its service to the university. Student members suggested filling extra time with sharing, brainstorm sessions, "think tanks," and guest speakers.

INFO SHARE

Nathan Howard shared the effort to date to add more gardening space on campus. SSC members are focusing on the land next to the CASL house "The Grove" and on Agate "The Green."

Louisa de Heer asked for the committee's impressions of commencement and if there are opportunities for improving sustainability. Areas for promotion include: zero-waste commencement events, returnable gowns, increased awareness of transportation emissions, and catering menus of locally produced foods.

Christian Pich mentioned a need for improvement in off-hour office computer power use. Suggestions for addressing the issue included: an awareness campaign to promote best practices;

IT staff control over settings; voluntary encouragement (Green Office Cert); metering energy use by department; and an info sheet listing energy requirements for common campus computers.

FUTURE AGENDA ISSUES

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm. The March meeting will be held on Friday, March 9 from 12PM to 1PM.