

## **Environmental Issues Committee Meeting Minutes**

March 4, 2013, Noon to 1 pm

Century Room D

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

- Alan Dickman – Environmental Sciences/Biology (chair)
- Peg Gearhart – Oregon Humanities Center
- Nick Hughes – student
- Andrew Louw - Office of Sustainability (ex officio)
- Meg Mattson – Academic affairs
- Erin Moore – Architecture
- Bitty Roy – Biology
- Fred Tepfer – Campus Planning and Real Estate
- Louisa de Heer – Student Sustainability (ex officio)
- Steve Mital – Office of Sustainability (ex officio)
- Christine Thompson - Campus Planning and Real Estate (ex officio)

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

- Doug Brooke – Environmental Health and Safety (ex officio)
- Mark Reed – Geology
- Kristin White – student
- Ellen Ingamells – student

### **GUESTS**

- Darin Dehle – Director, Capital Construction
- Jeff Madsen – Energy Systems Manager, Capital Construction
- Brendan Bohannon – Faculty, Biology

### **WELCOME, SELF-INTRODUCTIONS, AND REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Alan welcomed the committee and members introduced themselves. The committee approved the February minutes.

### **BRENDAN BOHANNAN – OVERVIEW OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL**

Brendan gave an overview of the mission and history of the Sustainability Council. The Council's primary role is to advise and lobby the administration and guide sustainability research and education at the University of Oregon. The Council also advocates for investment (through research grants and University Development) targeting sustainability. Brendan will be relinquishing his role as the chair of the Council as he is taking a sabbatical next year. He expressed concerns about the provost's resignation and the ability of the Council to function with

the turnover in the administration. There is an opportunity for the new provost to reinvigorate the Council and help set new priorities. Brendan has also been discouraged by the University President's seeming lack of interest in sustainability as Brendan has not been able to get onto his agenda despite numerous attempts. There are nine faculty members on the Council as well as Steve (who serves ex-officio). Bitty expressed a concern that the new budget model does not support interdisciplinary research/learning. Christine asked how the EIC can help advocate for the Sustainability Council. Brendan said that for the Council to succeed, it needs to have the provost's ear and also some top-down financial prioritization for sustainability (research and curriculum).

## **CAP UPDATE – DARIN DEHLE & JEFF MADSEN**

The committee continued the discussion about the ongoing CAP update. Steve invited Darin and Jeff (from Capital Construction) to discuss potential demand-side energy savings in existing UO buildings. This will help the EIC to make CAP recommendations moving forward. Darin and Jeff said that the University has consistently strived to achieve energy savings through projects such as lighting retrofits. Major renovations of building such as Anstett, Peterson, Fenton, Allen, and Straub allow for significant gains in energy savings, but these projects depend on consistent funding for deferred maintenance from the legislature.

Minor renovations/retrofits continue to be implemented and can have a significant effect of building efficiency, but not to the same degree as the major renovations. Much of time, these smaller upgrades have significant monetary benefits beyond simply the efficiency gains. However, some smaller projects might not be worth the investment if they are going to be removed when a major renovation occurs in an older building. Older buildings have structural limitations on the efficiency gains that can be achieved through major renovations; maintaining the historical character of these buildings. For example, replacing a building's original windows with high-efficiency windows makes financial and efficiency sense, but this would significantly reduce the historical integrity of the building. Some buildings, like Onyx, would not be worth renovating and would need to be replaced with a new building. A major challenge with these major renovations is finding temporary space for those people that are displaced by the renovation activity (for up to a year).

Darin and Jeff identified a number opportunities for achieving energy savings such a switching windows, heating and cooling (HVAC) upgrades, continued lighting upgrades, and behaviors change/education programs. Decentralized server spaces contribute significantly to energy inefficiency. These require substantial energy to cool which could be avoided through utilizing the University's centralized server and virtual computing systems. These programs should be directed especially toward faculty and staff. This education is also required for capital construction to pursue more ambitious renovation projects.

Darin emphasized the needs for (and relationship between) funding and surge space when considering large renovation projects. Bitty made the point that as departments makes new hires, they should not consider placing those people in buildings that require (or will require) major renovation. It does not make financial sense to do minor renovations in buildings that will not have a long lifespan.

Steve outlined the CAP update process moving into the Spring term EIC meetings.

**NEXT MEETING**

The Spring EIC meeting schedule will be as follows (EMU Alsea Room):

Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>

Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> (there may be second meeting in May)

Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup>