**Environmental Issues Committee Meeting Minutes**

May 13, 2013, Noon to 1 pm

Alsea Room, EMU

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Alan Dickman – Environmental Sciences/Biology (chair)

Peg Gearhart – Oregon Humanities Center

Meg Mattson – Academic affairs

Erin Moore – Architecture

Mark Reed – Geology

Fred Tepfer – Campus Planning and Real Estate

Steve Mital – Office of Sustainability (ex officio)

Christine Thompson - Campus Planning and Real Estate (ex officio)

Shelley Deadmond- Office of Sustainability

Andrew Louw- Office of Sustainability

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

Alan welcomed the committee back and committee introduced themselves.

**INFORMATION SHARE AND DISCUSSION WITH MELISSA WOO**

Melissa Woo is the Chief Information Officer at UO. She introduced herself and explained that she wears the hats of both the CIO and IT Manager currently. She gave some background information on the UO’s IT landscape as it currently stands, including that the UO has 2 large ‘data centers’, one of which recently went online under Allen Hall. Additionally, there are approximately 40 other distributed servers across campus, but the exact number is not easily pinned down because there is no reporting system for them. These spaces (data centers and individual ‘data closets”) are major energy users and are not very efficient. It was noted that there are, theoretically, ways to find out exactly where they are. The group discussed the ways in which campus IT could be more efficient and the ideas of both consolidation (into more centralized data centers) and virtualization (data lives in software, lessening the physical footprint of data storage) were mentioned.

Ideally, consolidating distributed servers on campus into the two central ones is desired, but there is no overarching policy for this. Also, it may eliminate the need for some department IT positions which can be a difficult issue. IT currently hosts virtual data storage for many groups on campus for free in order to encourage good behavior. But this may not last, as funding is needed to support the data center utility budget.

Would it be interesting, suggested one EIC member, for the group to recommend certain PUE (power usage effectiveness) and indicate that there would be discontinued subsidization of storage services if certain standards weren’t reached and/or maintained?

Would consolidation eventually help or harm an effort to move data storage and web hosting to the cloud? Melissa said it would help make that transition smoother and that really, campuses should have very compelling reasons at this point for building new data centers on site. Instead they should be thinking about contracting services with larger providers offsite who are ideally near a clean energy source that they use for their power.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday May 14, 2013 from Noon - 1pm.