

Environmental Issues Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 5, 2011

Noon-1 p.m.

Umpqua Room, EMU

MEMBERS PRESENT

- Peg Gearhart (Chair)—Oregon Humanities Center
- Jennifer Ellis—Finance
- Colin Ives—Art
- Alan Dickman—Biology/Environmental Studies
- Heather Brinton—Law
- Ramah Leith—Health Center
- Christian Pich—Neuroscience
- Chris Jones—Sustainable Cities Initiative
- Meg Mattson—Education
- Sophie Luthin—student
- Nathan Howard—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

Fred Tepfer—Campus Planning and Real Estate

DECISIONS TAKEN

- Manny/Sophie will provide documents so committee can review Take Back the Tap policy
- Steve will share any definitive changes to the Environmental policy when he receives feedback
- Steve will poll EIC members for Winter quarter meeting schedule

MINUTES

The November meeting minutes were approved.

STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY FUND

The student sustainability fund has formally transferred from the Office of Sustainability to the Student Sustainability Center. Louisa will work with students to develop a system for reviewing/recommending projects to the Vice President for Student Affairs. In the transition process, the deadline was moved to February 3, 2012, and some of the categories were combined and two new categories were added to the RFP to address some of the economic and social elements of sustainability beyond the environmental. One suggestion was made for the EIC to vet possible projects before they are recommended for funding.

TAKE BACK THE TAP

Manny Garcia, the Take Back the Tap coordinator updated the committee. The effort is no longer under

VP Francis Dyke's oversight, but now with VP Robin Holmes. He asked the committee to look at the policy and at the next meeting vote to refer it to the senate committee. Senate Executive Committee President, Nathan Tublitz also suggested that the EIC take responsibility and lobby for the policy for the university by 2012, to make the university "bottled-water free". Contracts with bottled-water companies would be renegotiated to eliminate bottled water. One question was raised about the costs of eliminating bottled water. Another question was raised about the consumption impacts of eliminating bottled water. One concern about installing new drinking-fountains to meet demand was raised. Louisa added that a drinking-fountain map is in the process of being created which will be integrated into the campus tour app. Steve wanted more clarity from Manny about what Take Back the Tap wanted from the committee. The committee requested an official policy statement from Take Back the Tap before the next meeting so that the committee can move forward supporting the policy.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY UPDATE

After the Policy was reviewed by the EIC, it was sent to Francis Dyke (VP) and her direct reports. Their feedback has been incorporated into the policy and now it has been sent to the general counsel's office for review. It will then come back to the Office of Sustainability before it goes to the president's office. There have been minor substantive changes to the policy including dropping the principle "investments" that addressed environmental screens in when considering university investments. Another change was made stating that the president would approve any updates to the policy, not the EIC. The last change was in the form of sub-policy requirements that perceived by some as onerous and inflexible. There was a concern that this process was removing some of the force of the policy. Steve will share any definitive changes when he receives feedback.

FUTURE AGENDA ISSUES

Steve suggested using the committee as a soundboard for gathering diverse voices into updates for the climate action plan. Student members suggested discussing the creation of a department of transportation since many issues exists with bicycle and pedestrian traffic and parking. Update from Take Back the Tap will also be addressed.

The Meeting adjourned at around 12:50pm. Steve will schedule Winter Term meetings.