

Environmental Issues Committee Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2013, Noon to 1 pm

Century Room D

MEMBERS PRESENT

Alan Dickman – Environmental Sciences/Biology (chair)

Peg Gearhart – Oregon Humanities Center

Ellen Ingamells – student

Meg Mattson – Academic affairs

Erin Moore – Architecture

Mark Reed – Geology

Bitty Roy – Biology

Fred Tepfer – Campus Planning and Real Estate

Kristin White – student

Doug Brooke – Environmental Health and Safety (ex officio)

Louisa de Heer – Student Sustainability (ex officio)

Steve Mital – Office of Sustainability (ex officio)

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

WELCOME, SELF-INTRODUCTIONS, AND REVIEW OF MINUTES

Alan welcomed the committee back and committee introduced themselves. The committee approved the December minutes.

JAMIE MOFITT CHECK-IN

Jamie Moffitt, the Vice President for Finance and Administration, introduced herself and talked about her background. She thanked the committee for its work and shared some feedback on the committee's proposed agenda for 2013. Specifically, she talked about next steps on the Climate Action Plan (CAP) update and OLIS participation. Jamie described her hopes that we develop a public input process that engages people but sets expectations at a level that balances the University's other priorities. She urged the committee to keep this balanced approach in mind when reviewing the draft CAP update.

Jamie also expressed support for the committee's interest in educating the public about the riparian buffer along the Willamette and making recommendations for its stewardship. This might include recommendations about addressing the riparian buffer to improve ecosystem function: removing invasive plant species, planting native plant species, and considering maintenance.

Jamie also informed the committee that she is reviewing the steps through which University's policies in her portfolio are reviewed and adopted. This includes the Comprehensive Environmental Policy which EIC updated for consideration two years ago. The system is currently problematic. She hopes to make the review process more efficient.

Alan thank Jamie for addressing the committee and setting the tone for the year ahead.

UPDATE: STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY FUND AWARDS

Louisa updated the committee on the status of the Student Sustainability Fund (SSF) awards. She reviewed the process by which projects are selected and how funds are awarded. Next year she hopes to streamline the process by helping students prepare for proposal writing. The SSF sets guidelines for how projects will be managed and typically helps accepted projects to navigate the steps to implementing their projects. This year SSF awarded all of the available \$35,000 (as well as ~\$2000 in leftover funds from the previous year that was not used) to nine projects (out of 10 deemed eligible). The projects included:

- The bike program, for bike station maintenance
- Climate Justice League, drinking water stations for older buildings (and filters)
- Club Sports tire inflation program “Get Pumped” (from OLIS class)
- Net-Impact Undergraduate Chapter, White Stag Conference
- Outdoor Program Solar PV Project
- Public Interest and Environmental Law Conference - Programming and Reception
- Slow Food – magazine which will include recipes
- EMU “Erb” (herb) garden, add fruit trees and buy silverware for EMU

Some programs will manage their grant funds. For other projects, SS Center will manage the fund dispersal.

CHECK-IN: EMU CARBON OFFSET AND UPCOMING MEETINGS

In 2012, the Office of Sustainability failed to find a viable carbon offset for the EMU. The funds were carried over and a few months ago a number of credits were found and purchased. The credit certificate should be arriving soon.

Randy Collins, Operations Manager of the Central Power Plant (CPS), will be coming to the February meeting to discuss the upgrades to the CPS that have recently come online. The committee might be interested in the opportunities related to flex-fuel opportunities. In March, Brendan Bohannon (Chair of the Sustainability Council), will come in and discuss the activities of the Sustainability Council. Steve will meet with Bitty to discuss moving the riverfront project forward and the committee can focus on giving input on the CAP update and developing a public input process for the CAP update. A brief discussion ensued on brainstorming a public input process for the CAP update.

NEXT MEETING

The February meeting will take place on Monday February 11th from Noon - 1pm in the Century D room.