Environmental Issues Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 11th, 2014 1pm to 2pm

EMU Board Room

MEMBERS PRESENT

Erin Moore – Architecture (chair)

Mark Reed – Geology

Steve Mital – Office of Sustainability  
Lisa Wimberley - Unclassified Personnel Services

Christine Thompson – Campus Planning and Real Estate

Callie Anderson - ASUO

Guests:

Jeff Nunes - Athletics

Andrew Louw- Office of Sustainability

Blair Williams - Athletics

WELCOME AND SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

The committee introduced themselves and approved the February meeting minutes.

NEXT STEPS CAP UPDATE

Steve briefed the committee on the Climate Action Plan Update and shared the list of student recommendation which last year’s EIC committee prioritized for discussion. Mark suggested grouping the goals by what is easy to achieve and have a meaningful impact, and group those which are harder to implement but are also valuable. These ideas rose to the top in the discussion were:

* Sustainability messaging at IntroDucktion
* Sustainability in Undergraduate education
* Stay focused on the Endowment/investment (responsible investment committee)
* Support for the dashboard program
* Sustainable Purchasing Policy/Vendor Portal

Erin was interested in a discussion about a higher building standard for new construction like the living building challenge. Jeff supported the idea to have more sustainability messaging at IntroDucktion and supported measuring sustainability literacy of incoming and outgoing students. Callie was in favor of the sustainability general education requirement.

CAMPUS AS LIVING LAB DISCUSSION

Erin updated the committee on George Hecht’s idea to implement a program to support student research related to research on campus. The idea currently is to have an award for recognizing excellent contributions in this area. One was for completed research and the second was for proposed research with the award being GTF of some sorts for helping that student with their research. Christine and Mark expressed that any award would be more useful for creating student research opportunities for existing identified campus research needs.

ATHLETICS SUSTAINABILITY WORK

Jeff gave an overview of what Athletics is doing with regards to sustainability. Athletics created a sustainability committee in 2010. While there were piecemeal initiatives before 2010, the sustainability committee has allowed for more coordinated efforts. The Olympic Trails in 2008 and a subsequent award from the Olympic Committee were a large impetus for launching sustainability in Athletics at UO. Athletics has had good buy-in from the various units within the department. Jeff will send out some materials regarding sustainability at Athletics and will also do recap at April’s meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in April. Times and location will be sent to member via email.