

Environmental Issues Committee Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2012, 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Rouge River Room

MEMBERS PRESENT

Alan Dickman – Environmental [Studies](#)/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
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)

REVIEW OF EIC CHARGE & RESPONSIBILITIES

Alan reviewed the committee's charter for the committee members. There was some discussion about the committee's role in University policymaking. Presently the EIC makes recommendations to Jamie Moffitt, the Vice-President for Finance and Administration. [The EIC](#) annual report goes to both Jamie and president of the faculty senate.

REVIEW OF 2011/2 EIC ANNUAL REPORT

Steve reviewed the highlights of the 2011/2 policy recommendations; namely, this included recommending that the "take back the tap" bottled water policy move forward, reviewing the flexible work/telecommuting policy to make it more clear who is eligible for telecommuting, and reviewing the Oregon Model for Sustainable Development. Last year the committee also reviewed the Green Office Certification program, learned about a new green clean procedure, examined Athletics' environmental programs, and began discussion about a Climate Action Plan (CAP) update.

POTENTIAL 2012/3 AGENDA ITEMS AND GOALS

CAP Update

Steve recapped the progress that has been made on the CAP update. Namely, this includes an implementation plan and more refined objectives. Steve has Jamie's approval to begin a two-step process. This includes soliciting curricular partnership and a public participation process. The Office of Sustainability is working with Vicki Elmer and her OLIS class on six projects related to the CAP update. The sustainability affairs graduate fellow is also working on a staff report/recommendations document covering those topics the class is not addressing. These will be complete by the end of January for review in early February. Steve hopes the committee will

review this work and have a hand in organizing the public process (in spring) that will then lead into a set of recommendations by the end of the academic year.

Central Heating Plant Tour

Steve talked a little about the details of issues that will come up in the update process like switching to biofuels to heat the campus. The upgrades to the Central Heating Plant (CHP) may have capability to accommodate biofuels. The EIC could tour the facility and learn more about this opportunity.

GHG Emission Inventory Update

The committee may review the results of the 2011/12 GHG inventory.

Behavior Change

Mark raised a discussion about identifying educational opportunities to engage students in sustainability thinking. Ideas included projects like replacing paper towels with air hand driers.

Student Sustainability Fund

Steve suggested getting an update about the upcoming student sustainability awards that will be announced during week one of winter term.

Sustainability Council

Brendan Bohannan may be willing to attend an EIC meeting to share the Sustainability Council's goals for the year.

Green Awards Program

Steve shared the idea of starting a green awards event to recognize those people on campus working on sustainability.

WILLAMETTE RIVERFRONT

Bitty gave a presentation about the Willamette riverfront and identified some interesting projects that the committee might get involved in. She urged the committee to engage in the public participation process for the EWEB Riverfront project. Louisa mentioned that Rena Schlachter from landscape architecture compiled a report into the matter.

NEXT MEETING

Steve will send out a poll to gauge the committee's interest in the various agenda possibilities and report back in December. Details for the December 3rd meeting (Noon – 1:00) will be announced via email.