

Academic Affairs
Greening Initiative Core Team Meeting
Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2009
2:00 p.m.
UN 211

Attendees: Best (Recreation & Tourism), Carpenter (Graduate Studies), Cox (Geography), Erickson (Student), Gibby (AcR & Planning), Kurland (Management), Michaud (Political Science), Pontikis (Family & Consumer Sciences), Stephens (Chair) (AcR & Planning), Vasishth (Urban Studies)

Guests: L. Rubino, N. Wilson

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November meeting were distributed and members were requested to submit comments via email to Vasishth.

INTRODUCTIONS

Vasishth welcomed Louis Rubino, Professor in the Health Sciences Department and a member of the planning team for the Institute for Health and Wellbeing; and Nat Wilson, Campus Architect with Facilities Planning.

DISCUSSION / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rubino reviewed details of the efforts he is presently involved in with the Colleges of Education, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Health Sciences. Together, their focus is to examine ways in which to provide shared/support services to the community.

Vasishth noted the immense opportunities we have for linkages between our Institute and the Institute of Health and Wellbeing. He added that the two groups have similar goals and an attempt should be made to discover how we can share resources and information. In particular, there are overlaps in the area of research and we need to think about integrating efforts. Rubino stated that he would identify areas of overlap in the future.

Vasishth announced that the Institute now has a website and logo. He is presently reviewing various applications being developed for business cards and letterhead and is planning a presentation of the final product. Also, whether to use multimedia or text media, video journals, and setting up a video archive on the website were considered. Within the next week or two he hopes to have a link available for review.

A suggestion was made to create a student project designed to publicize the Greening Project. It was then recommended that the Department Chair of Journalism be invited to our next meeting to communicate the value of Journalism student(s) participation.

Wilson is serving on the Steering Committee for the UC, CSU, CCC Sustainability Conference being held at UCSB on June 21-24, 2009. A desire to encourage student involvement was expressed. He will email information related to proposals and submission deadlines to the team.

Vasishth stated that the Institute currently is awaiting the decision for a grant proposal submitted to the USEPA regional office. In March, letters will be sent out determining acceptance. If the grant is awarded, it will be used to fund workshops led by trainers addressing curriculum and sustainability.

Different options were then discussed for creating a new degree in interdisciplinary studies with involvement of three or four departments.

Michaud discussed the Beck grant proposal she is preparing to submit for a new experimental course to be offered in fall 2009. The following points were considered:

- Seminar class style
- One faculty coordinating with a rotating schedule of faculty teaching
- Upper division elective units through the Urban Studies department
- Day and time to be scheduled
- Class advertisement

Michaud requested that a meeting be set up with those interested in helping to develop the basic structure of the class and a proposed syllabus. Stephens noted that once a day and time has been determined, Academic Resources will be able to schedule a room for the class.

Vasishth reported that the Institute now has office space for two directors (to be shared with the future Institute for Health and Wellbeing) plus a staff support area on the third floor of the Santa Susana Hall.

Carpenter encouraged all to attend the next lecture of the “Speak Your Mind” series featuring Juliet Schor, author of *The Overspent American*. It will be held on February 11th, 12:00 pm, at the Plaza del sol Performance Hall. Tickets are free of charge and can be obtained at the ticket office.

Lou Rubino announced he is working with Kathleen Young, Professor in the Health Sciences department, on a Smoke Free initiative. The Second Hand Smoke meeting will be held on Friday, at 11:30 am in Jacaranda Hall, room 2570. He will provide updates and recommendations.

Faculty Retreat

Kurland reported on the faculty retreat session she presented with Stephens and Vasishth. Faculty attending the session were asked to provide feedback in terms of what CSUN should be doing related to research in sustainability. Kurland distributed a handout detailing the results and reviewed with the team. The findings included a strong interest regarding an interdisciplinary curriculum and courses offered for mid-career professionals. She stressed the importance of maintaining contact with those who took part in the workshop.

UPDATES

Cox summarized the status of the carbon footprinting project. She has assigned one of her graduate students to begin the process of mapping trees on our campus. The student will document the size and type and from that will do an analysis. Those species that do well in this environment will be protected. Another student has been assigned the task of compiling the commute data from the survey. Cox noted that she can compute the exact mileage students travel to and from CSUN from the addresses given in the survey.

Kurland stated that there was nothing new to report regarding Waste Stream Analysis.

It was agreed that the topic Food System Analysis would be deferred to our next meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Climate Change Teach-In

Vasishth announced the Climate Change Teach-In will be held Thursday, February 5, 2009 in the USU Grand Salon. He mentioned the need to advertise the event through various means such as posters, blog, and email. Carpenter offered to send flyers to department chairs to forward on to faculty.

The highlights planned at this point for the Climate Change Teach-In consists of:

- Key Speaker: Andy Lipkis, 11:00 am
- Three or four discussion sessions with students regarding sustainability on campus
- Specific topic sign in sheets to generate interest of students
- Presentations provided by each team member educating the audience with ways in which to get involved
- Experimental course exposure

Vasishth will update members with information regarding presentation times and details.

Earth Day

Best and student representative, Sarah Erickson, reported on the planning progress of Earth Day. A student committee meeting was held in December. The following areas of interest were discussed:

- Budget – how to obtain funding?
- Marketing
- Limiting paper
- Zero waste
- Fashion Show with clothing made from organic materials
- Students Pledge to Sustainability in order to serve as role models to other students
- Food provided by locally grown farmers
- Biodegradable products

Wilson indicated that sponsors from other similar events might be contacted.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Faculty members to apply for one class to have a writing assignment on sustainability. Vasishth will send email with deadlines.
2. Invite Department Chair of Journalism to future meeting.
3. Wilson to email information related to the 2009 UC, CSU, CCC Sustainability Conference.
4. Michaud to set up Beck Grant Proposal meeting with interested team members.
5. Carpenter to send Climate Change Teach-In flyers to department chairs.
6. Wilson to provide Erickson with list of contacts for Earth Day funding.
7. Invite Hamid Johari and the Energy Research Center to present their work at an upcoming Core Team meeting.
8. Invite on-going representation from the College of Engineering and Computer Science.

Next meeting: Friday, February 20, 2009