

Academic Affairs
Greening Initiative Core Team Meeting
Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2009
2:00 p.m.
UN 277

Attendees: Best (Rec. & Tourism Mgmt.), Carpenter (Graduate Studies), Gibby (AcR & Planning), Donohue (Facilities Planning), Erickson (Grad Student), Johari (Mechanical Engineering), Kurland (Management), Motti (Grad Student), Nirenberg (University Corp.), Pontikis (Family & Consumer Sciences), Stephens (Chair) (AcR & Planning), Vasishth (Urban Studies), Wilson (Facilities Planning), Wohldmann (Psychology)

A. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made by all and a welcome was extended to the newest core team member, Roger Motti, a CSUN Geography graduate student.

B. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes of March 20, 2009 were approved as corrected.

C. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Sustainability Web Site: Vasishth stated that the links are presently under construction but the basic structure is intact. He then advised all members to send via email any other ideas or content they wish to have added to the site.
2. Recycling Feasibility Study: Wilson announced that Terra Solutions has been selected as the firm to perform the study. Date and location of their presentation is TBD. The scope, over a five year time frame, will provide us with information related to our existing recycling habits and what we will be capable of in the future. Wilson stressed that this will be a great opportunity to realize through the collection of information “what the campus could be.”

Team members were then given an opportunity to look through the Terra Solutions – CSUN Feasibility Study notebook.

3. Advisory Board Meeting: The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 28, 2009. Faculty, staff, students, and community members have been chosen to form a diverse representation.
4. Curriculum Planning: Vasishth provided details related to the plans to offer degree options, GE options, or graduate certificate program using existing courses:
 - Three core courses (nine units) that are interdisciplinary
 - Second level of courses would feed into a department with a specialization
 - Certificate program would evolve into a minor or major
 - Timeline with proposal deadline of October to EPC

D. UPDATES / DISCUSSION

1. Waste Stream Analysis: Kurland announced that she and her Business students will be conducting trash audits on Tuesday, April 21st, at 12:15 pm, behind Juniper Hall, Sierra Hall, and Jerome Richfield Hall. In addition, the pictures taken from the waste audit will be on display at Earth Day. Kurland then expressed an interest in water footprinting and

identifying where water footprints have the largest impact. Questions presented for discussion were: (1) How do we initiate water footprint accounting? (2) How do we measure how much goes to irrigation and how much to restaurants? Members were referred to the Water Footprint network for further information at www.waterfootprint.org

Nirenberg stressed the importance of responsible menu development and engineering by considering the environmental and growth requirements of different plants. Discussion then continued with concerns related to packaging and operations. Wohldmann offered to provide Nirenberg with a list of distributors.

Kurland recommended further brainstorming.

2. Farmers Market: Wohldmann advised the team that the market has been proposed and she is presently writing a grant in order to secure funding with a focus on educational outreach and marketing. An additional aspect being planned is to incorporate cooking classes, either the day before or the day of the Farmers Market, to educate consumers about sustainable cooking and healthy eating habits.
3. Tree Tagging: Motti notified the team that Cox has received approval to proceed with the tree tagging activity. She presently has four students assisting with the process but in order to complete by the end of the semester, additional support is needed. Further updates will be presented at the next meeting.

E. EVENTS

1. Greening XVIII: Vasishth announced that the eighteenth year of the Southern California conference will be held on April 18, 2009, from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm, in Juniper Hall, room 3107. The annual gathering of environmental and social science researchers will allow an opportunity for the exchange and brainstorming of ideas. Vasishth extended a welcome to attend all or part of the sessions.
2. Earth Day Planning: Erickson distributed post cards promoting the Earth Day event on Wednesday, April 22, 2009, from 11 am – 2 pm, along Magnolia Walk. Tours of the Rainforest, Donahue advised, will be provided as a part of Earth Day. Also, Carpenter noted that the tablecloth ordered with the Sustainability logo will be ready for use at this event as well as future events. Those planning to participate were asked to begin setting up at 10 am.

F. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

1. Curriculum: Pontikis announced two new classes being introduced: Sustainable Building and Design and Sustainable Building and LEED AP. He also mentioned the possibility of partnering with various other groups looking for opportunities in the Valley.
2. Stimulus and Earmarks: Stephens related the outcome of the meeting she and Vasishth had with Brittny McCarthy, Director of Government and Community Relations. They spoke about job training, energy audits, and different ways in which to present proposals. Stephens added that McCarthy was enthusiastic and expressed an interest in helping to find funding for some of the efforts the team is trying to put through. Donahue commented on the necessity to uncover market areas and determine priorities. The need to remain focused with decision making that represents the team's goals was also mentioned.

3. Summer Core Team Meetings: Stephens presented to members the question of whether meetings should continue throughout the summer on the same day and at the same time. All agreed to continue with the existing schedule and attend meetings whenever possible.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Stephens to send the following to core team members:
 - a. PowerPoint greening template
 - b. Curriculum proposal from Dean Feucht-haviar
 - c. Email regarding earmark stimulus and follow-up with meeting
2. Pontikis to obtain the following from the deans in response to the Provost's request for their participation in helping to design sustainability curriculum:
 - a. Determine interested departments
 - b. Contact point person for discussion
 - c. List of all existing courses
3. Carpenter to investigate department designation for curriculum.
4. Team members to consider further discussions regarding the GE piece of the curriculum.

Next meeting: Friday, May 15, 2009