

Academic Affairs
Greening Initiative Core Team Meeting
Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2009
2:00 p.m.
UN 277

Attendees: Carpenter (Graduate Studies), Cox (Geography), Erickson (Institute Assistant), Johari (Mech. Engin.), Kurland (Management), Michaud (Political Science), Motti (Grad. Student), Sherman (Institute Admin), Stephens (ARP).

Guest: DiJulio (Engineering)

A. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes of September 18, 2009 were approved by consensus.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION ITEMS

INSTITUTE LOGO

Cox presented several designs which viscom created for the Institute's logo. Those present chose two to bring back to viscom to do additional work on.

WASC Conference – April 21-23, 2010: Long Beach; more info: <http://www.wascarc.org/>

Cox announces that WASC will be focusing on curriculum and sustainability in spring 2010, and is working on putting a session together. She encourages team to be a part of this.

FACULTY RETREAT

Cox announced that the deadline is today. Retreat will take place 1/12 & 1/13. Adds that for the retreat, she is working on putting together ideas and will include discussion on how to incorporate sustainability into the curriculum, asked if anyone would like to participate – possibly, food garden group/Sheela/Colin/Nat/Toker (with green design).

C. INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABILITY ACTIVITIES – DEBRIEFING

Water Day

Cox initiated discussion by asking if any feedback. Sherman passed around unofficial results of feedback surveys that were collected from guests. Surveys showed that many attendees were required by classes; that attendees really enjoyed the sessions. Stephens mentioned that attendance was probably impacted because of midterms taking place that week, along with job fair and accreditation.

Campus Sustainability Day

Cox mentioned the poor attendance, and there was a general consensus that this was a disappointment. Discussion among core team concluded that many reasons contributed (ie. Faculty overloaded, furloughs, etc.). Positive feedback received from those that attended: student speakers were great – in particular Josh who presented on the photovoltaic project he is working on. Cox stated that we need to be thinking about the payoff in arranging such events with regard to the resources, time and energy that goes into them. Kurland suggested the idea of doing a “roadshow” for the Institute to promote throughclass talks, visits to departments, etc., in addition to any annual events currently taking place. Cox added that the orange picking event was a huge success, largely because student driven, and an outside event.

D. SUSTAINABLE ENGINEERING CERTIFICATE

DiJulio introduced a possible engineering certificate and explained that there is a real demand for this since it appeals to people who have been laid off or need retraining. She was originally looking into a graduate program, but then decided on a certificate. Goal is to educate students to meet the needs of the work force. Idea is to run the certificate program through Extended Learning, and then bring back to the College of Engineering eventually for a Master's program possibly. Stephens asked if it will be done as a cohort program and DiJulio stated that it wouldn't necessarily be set up that way, but she is open to ideas since it is still in the planning stage. Stephens expressed concern about too many certificate programs being developed and suggests that a goal might be to create core sustainable curriculum that then branches out to different departments. Hamid inquired about who the audience is, what the market is and what we have learned about the needs and demands are, for example, Is the city of Los Angeles hiring a lot of people in this field? DiJulio stated that she has met with Tseng College. Cox added that a potential idea is to create a degree for sustainability literacy that includes engineering, management, policy, etc. Carpenter added that there are many sustainability curriculum opportunities and it could get overwhelming with so many specialized certificates. Cox added that there really needs to be a hard core sustainable engineering program designed for engineers. DiJulio concluded that this is really meant to be additional training, not a full on degree, and really just introducing the idea at this point, and is still working out many kinks.

E. UPDATE ON SOLAR PV PROJECT

Hamid reported that currently solar devices on campus are only 12% efficient, and has been working on getting devices that are 40% efficient, but are very difficult to get. Josh has been designing a more efficient model, which will be site tested on campus, south of the matronic parking lot. These panels will be 12'X8' and are envisioned for commercial use in the future; Before May 2010, these will be in operation and will power the main grid on campus; Bill Sullivan will be managing the project; Hamid adds that nobody is doing anything like this anywhere in the country so it is a huge opportunity for CSUN; he will be working with the company Boeing.

Stephens discusses the idea of solar panels on Sierra Hall in conjunction with Toker's green roof research project.

F. NEW INITIATIVES AND INSTITUTE DIRECTION

Cox reported that she and Nancy met with Senators to talk about green initiatives in the San Fernando Valley. Cox passed around a handout with all the local current projects and initiatives of the Institute for Sustainability. General discussion and feedback took place.

G. REPORTS

CSUN Community Garden/Hillel Garden

Roger reported that the dinner, movie and garden showcase went extremely well. Almost 30 people attended; planning a compost project and there is discussion about a drip irrigation project.

Transportation

Michaud reported that Areeya is working on the surveys to collect data (including address, route info, future usage of alternative transportation) about transportation to and from campus and plans to launch in November. A challenge that has arisen is the revenue from parking, so this is something that needs to be taken into consideration.

Water, Student Activities

Best reported that she has been collecting data from other campuses in order to create benchmarks for CSUN's water consumption. Best also reported that she has a student currently working with her on our campus water footprint.

ACTION ITEMS

- Faculty: submit ideas for faculty retreat presentation(s)
- Faculty: taking requests to present in WASC conference in Spring – send requests to Helen.
- All: read working plan document from Helen about new initiatives and institute direction to discuss next meeting.

Next meeting: Friday, November 13, 2009.