

Academic Affairs
Greening Initiative Core Team Meeting
Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2009
2:00 p.m.
UN 277

Attendees: Anderson (Dev Math), Best (Rec. & Tourism Mgmt.), Carpenter (Graduate Studies), Cox (Geography), Erickson (Institute Assistant), Michaud (Political Science), Motti (Geography/Grad. Student), Pontikis (Family & Consum. Sci.), Sherman (Institute Admin), Stephens (ARP), Toker (Urban Studies & Plan.), Wilson (Facilities Planning), Wohldmann (Psychology).

I. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes of October 23, 2009 will be completed and emailed out for approval.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

Institute Logo

Cox reported that she will be emailing the logos to the green core listserv to seek feedback and votes on which logo best represents the Institute.

Advisory Board Meeting – Date/Time TBD

Cox reported that the Institute has an advisory board which is separate from the Green Core Group and meets once each semester. The advisory board meeting is quickly approaching and the date will be selected soon.

GIS Day – Nov 18

Cox reported that she will be speaking at GIS day in the Oviatt library. Discussion proceeded regarding possible studies and projects. Thermal imaging of the campus would cost about \$15,000 and would have to be done on a hot day, so she felt that it would be better to wait until the summer, and that alternatively we could use weather instruments manually and position them around campus; this could be a great student project. Anderson added that it would be great to see a GIS layered map of the campus. Cox added that we are working on this. Stephens mentioned that there has been a GIS map done of Jacaranda Hall, which a consultant was hired to do. Cox added that this would be a great item to bring up at the advisory board meeting and mentions that there is ESRI software that anyone on campus can use. Cox also mentioned that there is a great poster of the tree project in the lobby of the library.

III. WORKING PLAN – EDITS/ADDITIONS/COMMENTS

Cox distributed the working plan from the last meeting and emphasized that she would like the committee to contribute ideas and provide feedback and additional items to be included. This will be presented at the advisory board meeting, so it needs to be finalized over the next two weeks. Stephens added that the feasibility study in academic affairs is finished, and that they are beginning a pilot launch of a thin client instead of a computer in 8 classrooms in Sierra Hall. The thin client has energy savings, is cost-effective, less memory is needed since the images are driven from a server. Stephens added that Academic Affairs is planning to launch the same thing in math lab, SSU, Manzanita hall and other labs but not yet in offices yet. Best stated that she is currently working on an environmental assessment of the residence halls, and students are currently working on launching a survey (all of which will be addressed in reported below). Wohldmann added that she is working on a food assessment with Roger. Stephens added that it would be great to have some way or venue in which we are promoting campus and community sustainability projects not necessarily associated with the Institute. Possibly include coordinators of various projects on the agenda of the advisory board meeting. Cox concluded by requesting that people who are coordinating projects, please send her a piece to incorporate into the working plan.

IV. REPORTS

A. FOOD GARDENS + GRANTS

Hillel Garden:

Wohldmann reported that they just received a composter as a donation; they have 5 students coming regularly to work on projects and 10 interested students whom they need more projects for. Roger is currently working on a list of potential projects including some that will require grant funding. He is applying for a TUC Grant to get a rainwater harvester.

East Campus Garden Project:

Wohldmann reported that the East Campus Garden project is on hold right now. She was working on a USDA grant but is no longer applying for this because of the time line. Wohldmann also reported that she is working on a grant through the Urban Farming organization who is interested in CSUN being 1 of 5 sites they develop. They would build a garden and provide a master gardener for a year. There is potential for workshops to be hosted. This project would require 400 square feet. The site needs to be chosen by the first week of December and it would be ideal for Wohldmann to have approximately 10-15 students that are interested in being part of the project, but there is no minimal # of students required by the grantee. On the university end, she will need to work out the educational component. Wohldmann added that there is much potential with this proposed project including donating to local food banks, the Magaram kitchen could host small cooking classes with produce at free/low cost to students, high school visitors could participate, and much more.

B. TRANSPORTATION

Public Opinion Survey:

Michaud reported that she has completed the draft of the scientific public opinion survey. Goal of the survey is to find out the commuting patterns of the campus community and also their preferences. Survey has been reviewed by Helen and Areeya. Michaud she will be implementing Helen's and Areeya's suggestions this week and then will send out a test run of the survey to the core team to collect comments/feedback and also requests that members time how long it takes to complete the survey. Survey will ultimately go out to a random sample of students (sample information will come from IR) and to all faculty and staff. We will need to get approval for a mass campus email from Terry Piper and the decision of when to send the survey is in question. Because it requests student ID and address information, it requires IRB approval and will likely launch in February.

Bicycle Meeting:

Michaud also reported that the Bicycle Meeting with Anne and Fred is anticipated.

C. CURRICULUM, CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS, GRANTS

Wohldmann reported that she is working on three courses. Discussion occurred regarding involving other faculty in process and how to effectively do so. Discussion also followed regarding how to identify those courses in other departments with significant sustainability content. Faculty engagement has not been ideal. Discussion circled around how to address this. Best added that faculty development would be a good venue for this to happen and Cox added that she has put in a request for a spot at the faculty retreat. Ideas surrounding possibilities also included that faculty may not understand what is the criteria of a "sustainable course" when asked to provide a list of sustainable courses that they teach. It was decided that the information should be requested by the Deans to their faculty. Cox added that she can prepare something for the deans to present at the advisory meeting.

D. WATER, STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Water Footprint:

Best reported that basic work on the water footprint has begun; She still needs to meet with Betsy, but has received water bills from housing. Best is finding is that it is difficult to obtain data on quantities. She added that the environmental assessment which addresses facilities, operations, water, solid waste, has begun in the residence halls. Four students are currently working on conducting the survey with student residents. Best reported that so far, measuring water usage in the residence halls has not occurred, only energy. There is not much incentive to reduce water use since water is cheap compared to energy, however, Best pointed out that studies have shown the economic value of water conservation. Cox added that in the final report there should definitely be a cost/benefit analysis. Best

added that the idea is to include the footprinting data, the cost/benefit data and the student input. Best reported that the February issue of the Northridge magazine will include CSUN Water Projects.

E. GREEN DESIGN

Green Roof:

Toker reported that she is still teaching the green roof class, for which the proposed area is Sierra Hall. 300 interviews have been conducted; finals week will be the final presentations and will include 3 dimensional illustrations.

Farmer's Market:

Toker reported that they are still researching 5 possible locations; each has two different proposals, which will be turned into reports as well, with the potential for an exhibition. Toker added that the committee should let her know if they are interested in seeing the student presentations.

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting: Friday, December 11, 2009