

Academic Affairs
Greening Initiative Core Team Meeting
Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2009
2:00 p.m.
UN 277

Attendees: Anderson (Dev Math), Bhongir (A.S. Environ. Affairs), Carpenter (Graduate Studies), Cox (Geography), Donahue (Fac. Planning), Erickson (Institute Assistant), Motti (Geog/Grad. Stud.), Pontikis (Family & Consumer Sci.), Sherman (Institute Admin), Stephens (ARP), Toker (Urban Studies & Plan.), Wilson (Facilities Planning), Wohldmann (Psychology).

A. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes of November 13, 2009 were approved by consensus.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION ITEMS

Faculty Retreat

Cox reminded team of the faculty retreat presentation.

Metrolink Reductions

Donahue announced that there have been significant reductions to the Metrolink, where several scheduled services from Ventura County are affected. This will have an effect on campus community commuters, so he has compiled a letter with Brittny McCarthy to express the importance of Metrolink to CSUN commuters.

Idea: Pamphlet/Handout of Energy Projects

Donahue expressed an idea to have students work on a pamphlet to provide information about CSUN Energy Projects. Discussion followed with ideas on creating a self-guided campus tour. Donahue expressed the importance of it being created by students because students are very good at making things like this appealing to a younger audience and visitors alike to see student involvement. Wohldmann suggested that students in marketing be consulted. The possibility of creating an iPhone application by IT students was discussed. Bhongir suggested that it would be nice to have this project completed by Earth Day.

Campus Mail Issues

Donahue stated that while looking at campus-wide ways to reduce monetary costs and increase the sustainability as a whole, he has noticed some issues with campus mail. He raised the issue of the campus receiving excessive paper mailing and that we as a team and as a campus need to be looking at areas to reduce our consumption and waste. He pointed out that many of the mailings received are not necessary and could be sent electronically, or placed on the electronic university calendar. Outside audits require wet signatures so this is an additional issue that should be discussed at a later point. Donahue also mentioned that departments could be saving a lot of money and cutting back on their costs if fewer publications went to print. Donahue asked if there was a small area that could be addressed and then slowly move from department to department to try to resolve this issue. Wohldmann suggested CIELO since it is small, yet generates a lot of mailings. Wohldmann added that she could work on creating a student project where an assessment is done and added that this completely relates to psychology. Bhongir adds that she will raise the issue with the Associated Students as well.

Farmer's Market Presentation

Students will present their Sierra Hall green roof proposals and CSUN farmers' market proposals on Tuesday, December 15th at 3:30 pm in the Whitsett Room (Sierra Hall 451).

This is the student work from their semester in two sections of research based urban design course under Zeynep Toker. Committee members are invited to join in to see the presentations of these projects.

C. LIBRARY DISPLAY

Carpenter reported that she will be presenting a proposal for a library exhibit on CSUN sustainability to the committee in charge of approving exhibits. The second half of the Spring 2010 semester is already reserved for Bob Gohstand who will be doing an exhibit on printing presses. The library exhibit would be free of cost. Sherman added that there are Sierra Hall display cases which departments can reserve for one week at a time. Team reported their various display material: Cox has many posters, Bhongir and Tivasuradej have a display on rainwater harvesting, TUC may have displays (health eating chart?), Erickson reported that USU has several greening initiatives they will be marketing in the Spring, Associated Students could come up with displays and live presentations, Motti suggested Habitat of Humanity could have something, Anderson suggested the possibility of an ebook promotion/presentation.

D. SUSTAINABILITY CURRICULUM – CERTIFICATE, CORE COURSES

Wohldmann, who is the chair of the curriculum committee, reported progress on the certificate. She reported that the committee is focused on the structure of the courses more than the content. She will be teaching a course (the second of the three core courses) in the spring of 2010. The committee has settled on the certificate paradigm. The committee will reconvene in the spring but will need a new chair since Wohldmann has recently received a large NIH Grant which will take her time. Cox expanded on the certificate program. She reported that the proposal is to do a certificate that includes three core courses and then an additional three designated courses (selected from various departments which students would have the option to select) which would be their emphasis. Wohldmann added that this structure would enable people from outside of CSUN to be able to take the certificate. Cox added that eventually there could be a Master's Certificate as well. She added that Erickson has compiled a list of all the current certificate programs at CSUN to get an idea of other certificates and their structures. Cox explained that there has been resistance to developing the certificate outside a department and that a possibility would be to house the certificate under a college instead.

E. REPORTS

1. Food Gardens + Grants

East Campus Garden

Wohldmann reported that there is currently an "East Campus Garden" plan underway. A grant has been approved by Urban Farming and is endowed by a large corporation. They will fund all the labor involved with creating the garden, and will provide a master gardener for one year. They have asked us to sign legal papers but before signing, Wohldmann asked to know the name of the corporation, which requires signing a non-disclosure statement. Discussion followed about legal issues.

Hillel Garden

Sunday, December 13, from 9-1 pm there will be another orange picking at the Orange Grove (corner of Nordhoff and Zelzah) and the oranges will be donated to SOVA food pantry.

2. Transportation survey

Cox reported that the commute survey has been circulated around to the green core and Michaud is compiling the feedback.

3. CSU Climate Action Plan

Cox reported that she visited Chico, CA last month to speak at an all day climate planning workshop. The workshop was designed to generate recommendations to the Chancellor on climate planning commitments. The goal is to urge the Chancellor to make

a statement and commitment about the path he envisions the CSU to take in regards to combating climate change. The resulting recommendations were that the CSU be in compliance, but also exceed the AB 32 deadlines by 2-5 years, the idea being that the CSU should take a leadership approach, as an example. Cox reported that many CSUs have strong support at their individual institutions but overall the CSU system needs the Chancellor to support all the campuses in this endeavor. All campuses have been asked to create a carbon footprint analysis which involves tracking all details of energy consumption, including business travel. Cox stated that she will send the workshop website around to everyone.

4. URBS495C – analysis

Cox reported that she is not sure if it will be offered in Fall, but hopes to. It was funded by a grant which may not be funded in the Fall. Overall feedback by faculty involved was that it was successful.

5. Associated Students Environmental Affairs

Vegan/Vegetarian Options on Campus

Bhongir reported that Betsy from TUC attended a recent E.A.C. meeting and the idea of a “Meatless Monday” was discussed as well as more vegan/vegetarian options being offered and labeled as such.

Earth Day-40th Anniversary

Bhongir reported that it will be the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day in Spring 2010 on April 22. EAC will be organizing activities on that day. Bhongir also reported that they are looking into bringing speakers on that day. Earth Day Planning will begin over break and Bhongir extended an invitation to the committee for anyone interested in helping to contact her at environment@csunas.org. She was asked to contact Best.

6. Advisory Board Meeting Summary

Cox reported that in the Spring, she will try to schedule this meeting earlier since there were many people who could not attend so late in the semester.

F. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

G. ACTION ITEM RECAP

- Donahue will write up draft proposal about excessive mail and procedures to improve paperless communication.
- Wohldmann will research CIELO as potential pilot study.
- Cox will email the website for the climate change workshop recommendations.

Next meeting: January 22, 2:00 pm, UN 211