

Academic Affairs
Greening Initiative Core Team Meeting
Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2009
2:00 p.m.
UN 277

Attendees: Best (Rec. & Tourism Mgmt.), Carpenter (Graduate Studies), Cox (Geography), Gibby (AcR & Planning), Jennings (Business & Economics), Johari (Mechanical Engineering), Kurland (Management), Nirenberg (University Corp.), Pontikis (Family & Consumer Sciences), Stephens (Chair) (AcR & Planning), Vasishth (Urban Studies), Wilson (Facilities Planning), Wohldmann (Psychology)

Guests: J. Oh (Psychology)

A. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made by all and a welcome was extended to Janet Oh who expressed an interest in sustainability, and is exploring the possibility of becoming a core team member.

B. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes of February 20, 2009 were approved.

C. INFORMATION ITEMS / DISCUSSION

1. Stakeholder Meeting: Vasishth reported a good mix of student and faculty attendance. Details related to the CSUN greening project were presented with breakout sessions following. An additional sign in sheet was made available to students and will be combined with those from the previous event. This will be a good beginning for a data base providing insight into individual interest. Vasishth then spoke about the different ways the stakeholder group could be set up, such as:

- Core team meetings could either combine with stakeholder meetings to become one large assembly or remain separate with different functions.
- Stakeholders could assume the activist role.
- One member designated from each area of interest to form stakeholder group.

Stephens noted the students were enthusiastic participants and the value of translating that energy into involvement. For a discussion at the next meeting, members were encouraged to consider students for recommendation to the stakeholder group as well as ideas related to their role.

2. Toyota Presentation: Kurland briefed members on a presentation made in one of her classes by a Toyota representative with an environmental science background. He spoke about an undergrad sustainability course he took while a student at Rice University.
3. Tree Tagging: Cox has assigned two students to participate with her in the process. Each tree will be assigned a unique number to identify it. Tree tagging will be useful in developing a data base through which rates of growth may be traced and problems discovered. Also mentioned was the benefit to PPM for purposes of care and pruning of trees on campus. Before they begin, Cox will be meeting with Tom Brown to discuss the positive aspects of the program and to obtain his approval.

4. Advisory Board: Vasishth reviewed the development of an interdisciplinary board consisting of faculty, staff, and students meeting two times per year. Their responsibility will be to the link between the Institute for Sustainability and the university by circulating information and gaining constituent feedback.
5. Energy Related Certificate Program: Vasishth addressed the possibility of developing a program geared towards providing training to students interested in green jobs. Ideas presented included: (1) identify existing courses to meet certificate requirements; (2) locate faculty to teach energy audits; (3) set up track with high schools; (4) obtain research sponsorship to discover what students need for sustainability jobs.

Stephens noted she will be working on the Institute budget and will explore opportunities that might be available.

D. UPDATES / UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Interdisciplinary Course: Vasishth announced that URBS 495C has been scheduled for the Fall 2009 semester on Fridays, from 11:00 am – 1:45 pm. It will be a team taught seminar course providing students with knowledge of sustainability concepts and how to apply such principles to their personal and professional lives. If the team decides to offer it as an experimental course during Spring 2010, the deadline for proposal submission is August 2009.
2. Transportation: Wilson provided an update to the meeting Donahue, Stephens, Vasishth, and he attended. In addition to Astrid Logan and Fred Fernandez from Public Safety, representatives from AlterNetRides.com (the vendor) also attended. The vendor would set up the online service on CSUN's website which would serve as the transportation hub for the campus. Multiple transportation services can be offered integrating transportation services by linking the metro link, parking, van pooling, etc. All transit services would be accessible through this one link making car pooling and ridesharing a much simpler task to arrange.
3. Waste Stream Analysis: Kurland reported that a few of her students are compiling data for the analysis of students' awareness on recycling. They plan to distribute their findings at the Earth Day event:

Some ideas presented to promote and increase recycling on campus included:

- Place recycling bins in classrooms.
- Create pilot study for positioning bins next to vending machines.
- Research what other CSU campuses are doing.
- Assign recycling bins as art projects through Globalinheritance.org.

Nirenberg expressed the benefits of partnering between Academic Affairs and the University Corporation. He added that steps are being taken toward becoming more sustainable such as eliminating plastic bags and trays. Nirenberg stressed how training the customer helps to achieve the goal of instilling a concern for the environment.

4. Farmers' Market: Wohldmann reported on the productive meeting she and Stephens had with representatives of the University Corporation. The food survey revealed 90% of the 650 respondents are in favor of a market at CSUN. With that level of support, they may be able to start as early as fall 2009 if details such as scheduling and selecting a site can be finalized. The plan is to keep it simple with produce only being offered by sustainable

farmers. Wohldmann then distributed information to team members detailing the benefits and demand for a market on campus.

5. Earth Day Planning: Best provided the following update:

- Location - Magnolia Walk
- Room booked with movies running from 10 am – 4 pm
- Post cards being distributed
- Waste audits being performed
- Steel Band performance
- Sculpture contest
- Participating groups sharing information and selling products
- Giveaways for marketing – recycled bags with slogans, CSUN logo

Discussion then ensued. Wohldmann stated she would be setting up a table for biking and food. Pontikis offered to contact the student members of Habitat for Humanity and recruit their involvement for a green building table. Members of the Core Greening Team agreed to staff a separate table with sign-ups for the various stakeholder interest areas. Carpenter and Stephens agreed to arrange for a tablecloth with the “Greening CSUN” logo.

6. California Travel & Tourism Commission Meeting: Best advised all members that the State Agency for marketing will be on campus April 24th with an expected attendance of 50-70 stakeholders. Discussion group sessions are planned to determine what sustainable travel and tourism should be in this state. She encouraged all members to attend.

E. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

1. Wilson extended an invitation to team members interested in attending a DWP Water Recycling Program meeting to be located at their site. The purpose will be to discuss what CSUN can do for recycling on the campus.
2. Stephens reminded all to please complete the transportation survey if they haven't yet done so.

Stephens then concluded with stressing the importance of considering those Academic Affairs practices that can be helpful to the environment. Faculty only posting their syllabi online was used as an example of one way in which the environment benefits with little effort.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Publicize new course offering at Earth Day.
2. Create tablecloth for greening project.
3. Employ TA's and GA's as information conduits.
4. Nominate students for Stakeholder membership.
5. Distribute notes from Stakeholder meeting to team members.

Next meeting: Friday, April 17, 2009