

Academic Affairs
Greening Initiative Core Team Meeting
Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2009
2:00 p.m.
UN 277

Attendees: Anderson (Dev Math), Carpenter (Graduate Studies), Donahue (Facilities Planning), Erickson (Ed Psych/Grad Student), Gibby (AcR & Planning), Johari (Mechanical Engineering), Michaud (Political Science), Motti (Geography/Grad Student), Nirenberg (University Corp), Pontikis (Family & Consumer Sciences), Sherman (Matador Involvement Center), Stephens (Chair) (AcR & Planning), Vasishth (Urban Studies), Wilson (Facilities Planning), Wohldmann (Psychology)

A. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes of May 15, 2009 were approved.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Institute Support: Stephens announced that the Provost has agreed to provide a 1.0 staff position at the analyst level for the Institute for Sustainability and the Institute for Health and Wellbeing.
2. Branding Update: Stephens stated that a tentative new brand has been proposed, and is waiting to receive written authorization granting approval for its use. She will keep members updated as she receives further information.
3. AASHE Workshop: Vasishth reported on the 2-day workshop he and Kurland attended in San Diego. The focus was how to incorporate sustainability into curriculum. In particular, he reviewed aspects of the "The Ponderosa Project." Faculty members attended an intensive 3-day workshop and received training to assist with integrating environmental issues into their curriculum. He further noted that the faculty developed syllabi and received a stipend for completion of same. Vasishth expressed an interest in members becoming involved in something similar. If interested, Stephens offered to propose it to the Provost for possible funding of the stipend.
4. Community-based Research Database: Vasishth reviewed the importance of building a database specifically identifying those courses on campus that address the San Fernando Valley. It would serve as a point of contact for the community when they are looking for assistance. Motti and Sherman volunteered to help build the database.

Wilson shared materials from The Valley Green Team. He explained to members the organization is made up of a group of individuals from throughout the San Fernando Valley. Their goal is *connecting resources to bring healthy and environmentally-sustainable businesses and jobs to the San Fernando Valley region.*

5. Leadership Transition: Vasishth announced his departure from CSUN will be sometime near the end of July. Deans will need to elect a new director with approval of the Provost. Stephens added that functional office space has been provided and set up for the two directors and a staff person.

C. UPDATES / DISCUSSION

1. Food Gardens: Wohldmann notified members she has written the first draft proposing the start of the community garden on campus. She will circulate for feedback and then review with the core team.

Wohldmann also stated that she has approached faculty regarding their interest in preparing a proposal connecting Northridge Academy and CSUN centered on healthy eating, sustainability, gardens, and providing food to homeless shelters.

She then noted the Farmers Market, if approved through the President's Cabinet, is set to begin on Wednesday, August 26, 2009. Nirenberg added that he has requested that it be placed on the agenda for July. In addition, he stressed the need for appointing a Grievance Council before the market begins. It should be composed of one of the participating Farmers and ideally someone from the community. The Council will serve as a resource for issues that may arise.

Members were advised the first farmer has been assigned to the market. Discussion then followed reviewing the various certification needs of farmers. They were also encouraged to provide Wohldmann's contact information to their favorite farmer, if considered a good prospect for participation. The type of bag to be used was discussed and Sherman recommended ChicoBags. She offered to provide contact information to Wohldmann.

2. URBS495C: Michaud reported she is in the process of selecting course material and will be meeting the week of July 8th or 9th. Discussion will focus on the student assessment process and development of a course syllabus. She will send a reminder to those involved.
3. Container Selection: Nirenberg provided an update on available recyclable materials and reviewed certain aspects of paper vs. Styrofoam products. He then presented the team with two examples of travel beverage containers and the sustainable and economical features of both. He is presently considering either container to be sold on campus with an initial purchase price, and then offering a discount on the beverage as an incentive. A ceramic mug is also being investigated. Nirenberg announced that Styrofoam will no longer be used on campus beginning with the Fall 2009 semester. An interest was also expressed in locating a stainless steel beverage container and Sherman added that he should consider *Klean Kanteen* products - all BPA free.

D. UPCOMING EVENTS

1. UC/CSU/CCC Sustainability Conference: Vasishth reported that the conference will be held June 21-25 in Santa Barbara. He noted that CSUN students will be conducting a trash sort and will also participate in a panel discussion. Additionally, CSUN students will receive an award for their rainforest participation.
2. AASHE Awards: Wohldmann reminded members the deadline is July 1, 2009. There are three categories this year:
 - a. Campus Sustainability Leadership – She requested members write a summary of accomplishments and send to Wohldmann. She will then submit a nomination letter for the Core team.
 - b. Student Sustainability Leadership – A \$750 prize will be awarded to undergraduate students committed to implementing campus sustainability.
 - c. Student Research – Awarded to students conducting research that advances campus sustainability.

Members were urged to send their material to her as soon as possible.

3. Recognition Conference: Sherman reviewed details of the annual conference being held on Saturday, September 26, 2009. She noted it's a good opportunity for student organizations to receive recognition. Also, information will be provided related to how to obtain funding and available resources in the community. Sherman then added that a presentation/workshop, "How to Run it Sustainably," is in the planning stages and they are actively seeking an individual interested in presenting.
4. Biodiversity / Energy / Climate Change Awards: Johari announced that five awards of \$300 each will be granted. The deadline for submission is September 10, 2009. He also mentioned scholarship opportunities with a registration deadline of July 6, 2009. Members were asked to contact Johari if interested in further details.
5. Reseda Corridor: Donahue explained his involvement in creating a more sustainable and walkable environment along the Reseda Corridor. He noted this is a good opportunity for a student involvement project and will require planning and implementation over time. Motti offered to enlist volunteers to assist with deciding what plants are appropriate and to help with planting.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Stephens to forward curriculum proposal to Provost Hellenbrand
- Stephens to propose stipend funding to Provost Hellenbrand
- Members to submit nominations to Wohldmann
- Members to consider leadership for transportation
- Sherman to provide ChicoBags information to Wohldmann

Next meeting: Friday, July 17, 2009.