

Academic Affairs
Greening Initiative Core Team Meeting
Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2009
2:00 p.m.
UN 277

Attendees: Anderson (Dev Math), Best (Rec. & Tourism Mgmt.), Carpenter (Graduate Studies), Cox (Geography), Erickson (Ed Psych/Grad Student), Gibby (AcR & Planning), Kurland (Management), Motti (Geography/Grad Student), Stephens (Chair), Wilson (Facilities Planning), Wohldmann (Psychology)

Guests: S. Bhongir (student), C. Signett (Associated Students)

A. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes of June 19, 2009 and July 17, 2009 were approved by consensus.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION ITEMS

Introductions were made by all and a welcome was extended to Cyndi Signett, A.S. Recycling Coordinator.

Stevens announced that Annie Sherman has been appointed as the new staff member of the Institute for Sustainability, and will begin on Monday, August 24, 2009. Thanks were then expressed to Gibby for her support and service to the Institute.

Bhongir announced she has been appointed as the Director of the Associated Students Environmental Affairs Committee (EAC). Congratulations were extended to Bhongir.

C. UPCOMING EVENTS

1. AASHE Conference, September 20 – 23, 2009, Indianapolis: Cox, Vasishth, and Wohldmann will be serving on a panel addressing curriculum.
2. Envisioning California Conference: Sustainability and the California Dream, October 16, 2009, 2:00 – 8:00 pm: Local leadership groups will be present including politicians and business leaders. Kurland will be serving on the panel. Stephens mentioned the importance of securing resources. Discussion followed.
3. Best and Kurland provided the status of tasks related to organizing Water Day on October 20, 2009:
 - Kurland needs an additional speaker and welcomed any ideas for filling the open slot. Anderson offered to assist with recruitment.
 - Wilson has two speakers confirmed from the DWP.
 - Wohldmann has spoken with someone interested in presenting and will follow-up with further discussions.

Discussion then continued regarding room set up. Members were advised to provide Annie Sherman with the names for guest parking permits.

4. Sustainability Day, October 21, 2009: Stephens opened the discussion with a request for ideas.

Kurland expressed interest in making the entire week “green week” since so many related activities are occurring during the week of October 20th. Cox then mentioned that the National Planning about Climate Change is scheduled on October 22nd, the day after Sustainability Day. Stephens and Cox led a discussion of considering having one event rather than both.

Offering a sustainability tour on campus was suggested by Motti. On a first hand basis, this would give faculty, staff, and students the opportunity to learn about the activity we’re involved in at CSUN. Additionally, Bhongir volunteered to serve as guide for a botanic garden tree walk.

5. E-Waste Day: Bhongir needs approval from Apple before proceeding and would prefer a drop off center near the loading dock behind the Matador bookstore.
6. Signett announced the Associated Students Fair will be held on Tuesday, August 25, 2009, on the bookstore lawn. The promotion of the Environmental Affairs Committee will take place with sign-up sheets available for those interested. Motti offered to help Cyndi at the Fair.
7. Kurland emailed Carmen Chandler requesting space on the University Calendar to promote the various events.
8. CSU Chico Sustainability Conference, November 5 – 11, 2009: Wohldmann and Vasisht have submitted a proposal to form a panel to discuss curriculum. A workshop will be held sharing success stories and insight to what has worked well on other campuses.
9. Opportunity Green Business Conference, UCLA, November 7 – 8, 2009: Kurland advised members to look at the website for further details.
10. APA (American Planning Association) Symposium, CSUN, November 14, 2009: Cox reported that the symposium will be held on the CSUN campus. Bhongir noted event details are not complete, but one of the topics addressed will be public transportation.
11. Best announced the first Sustainable Tourism Summit will take place on October 1, 2009 in Monterey.

Discussion followed with interest expressed in obtaining spots on the @CSUN and Daily Sundial calendars to promote the Institute’s upcoming events. Kurland also thought opportunities with the weekly feature in Sundial would be worth pursuing. Bhongir volunteered to assist Kurland. Wohldmann mentioned that the Green Blog is open and encouraged members to submit stories at any time.

D. REPORTS

CSUN Community Garden/Hillel Garden

Motti and Wohldmann reported they have planned weekly meetings at the Hillel property. Wohldmann stated plans are underway to expand the garden on Zelzah. They are developing a layout to determine cause and will present to the Environmental Planning Board for approvals. She noted the location for expansion is ideal with easy water access and the close proximity to the High School will be helpful with establishing a relationship.

Wohldmann mentioned that she will be meeting with the Provost next week, and hopefully will follow up with the President’s Cabinet meeting with Cox and Lou Rubino also attending.

She stressed the benefit of the farmers market to students from a health and welfare perspective. After approval, she will begin calling farmers and the market could be up and running within one month.

Transportation

Wilson reported a bicycles meeting has been set with Public Safety. Training will be provided to faculty, staff, and students to ensure safety. Those commuting via bicycles will take the training and register through the Bicycle Registration Program. On the transit side, he noted that a meeting on campus has been set with the MTA. He also has a meeting scheduled with Astrid to discuss what can be done to increase transit on campus.

Curriculum

Wohldmann noted the next meeting is scheduled September 25, 2009. The committee is gathering courses from their college that could possibly be related to sustainability. In addition, she is developing the Permaculture course proposal.

Water, Student Activities

Best stated they are considering ways to assess the water footprint on campus. She mentioned that she is already receiving ideas and requests for involvement at Earth Day next year. Best then added that this is a good indication that student involvement is growing.

Carbon Footprinting

Cox reported that some tree tags had been inadvertently removed. Motti and another student are identifying the trees and replacing the tags. She added they are setting up a GIS system for campus. This will allow access to on campus maps which will help with collecting data on trees, energy use, thermal map, etc.

Business Community/Media

Kurland provided an update of the activities she's presently involved in:

- Writing an article regarding the institute for the LA Daily news
- Spearheading an article regarding URBS 495C for the Academy of Management Learning & Education Journal special issue on sustainability and management education
- Planning to attend a meeting with Waste Management's Sustainability Group (a group of business leaders who meet monthly to share sustainability stories) next week in LA

Student Environmental/Sustainability Club

Motti reported the student environmental group held a Board meeting and signed a constitution. Various members have offered to speak at future Sustainability meetings and provide an update to the projects they're involved in. He mentioned the group has organized a monthly sustainability night and are brainstorming ways in which to get other students engaged. He and Bhongir are working together to meet the commitment of bringing twenty percent real food to CSUN by 2020.

Reseda Corridor

Wilson provided an update of the Reseda Corridor landscape project. The first project is to plant 30 trees in empty planters along Reseda Blvd on Oct 24. They need volunteer planters. The trees and tools will be provided by the local community group. A separate event would be held in conjunction with TreePeople. They require an eight hour on campus training session and a five year commitment from the community to maintain the trees. He said there is a need to plan for community involvement and Bhongir offered to help Wilson with the process.

ACTION ITEMS

- Encourage attendance at the weekly garden event every Friday.
- Encourage student registration for environmental affairs committee.
- Gibby to provide Liliana Oustinovskaya at Sundial with meeting dates and times.
- Submit names to Sherman for guest parking permits for Water Day.
- Publicize Water Day event.
- Develop plan for tree planting.
- Determine whether to have Sustainability day or Climate Change Teach in.

Next meeting: Friday, September 18, 2009.