

Academic Affairs
Greening Initiative Core Team Meeting
Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2009
2:00 p.m.
UN 277

Attendees: Best (Rec. & Tourism Mgmt.), Carpenter (Graduate Studies), Cox (Geography), D'Orsogna (Mathematics), Erickson (Institute Assistant), Kurland (Management), Michaud (Political Science), Pontikis (Family & Consum. Sci.), Sherman (Institute Admin.), Toker (Urban Studies & Plan.), Wilson (Facilities Planning), Wohldmann (Psychology).

A. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes of August 21, 2009 were approved by consensus.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION ITEMS

Wohldmann announced that David Nirenberg will no longer be an employee of CSUN and has been hired at Channel Islands; furthermore Wohldmann will be working on making contacts within the University Corporation.

Cox announced that progress is being made on creating an Institute logo.

C. UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Water Day: Tue. October 20, 2009, 9:00 – 4:00 pm, Library Presentation Room:
 - Erickson passed around draft of flier asking for feedback.
 - Cox discussed ways to market, how much marketing material to produce; discussion followed.
2. Campus Sustainability Day: Wed. October 21, 2009, 9:00 – 8:00 pm, various venues on and off campus:
 - Cox discussed how we were initially leaning towards a “climate day,” but have now decided on “campus sustainability day” as the theme. Cox initiated discussion on marketing. Discussion ideas included: emailing faculty/departments/staff/students/other colleges/community, listservs, MIC Red Hot News, Facebook, Twitter, @CSUN, Green Blog, ad in Sundial, University Events Calendar and Classes.
 - Cox discussed the SCUP webcast, whether to include it or not. Discussion followed, which included that it would be preferable to have speakers (particularly students) on local campus sustainability, and possible mixer. Discussion migrated toward possible different locations, due to concern about student access.
 - Nat suggested idea of presentation of A.S. Recycling feasibility study.
 - Nancy suggested presentation by Helen due to IS’s one year anniversary on October 27th.
 - Cox introduced ideas of treasure hunt with trees at CSUN, garden tour, edible food walk. Discussion followed. It was decided to hold sessions with faculty and student presentations (no SCUP webcast), followed by orange picking in orchard.
3. WASC Sustainability Conference, Long Beach: The Weston Long Beach: April 21 – 23, 2010.
 - Cox announced to mark calendars for this upcoming conference, more info to follow.

D. REPORTS

CSUN Community Garden/Hillel Garden

Wohldmann reported that she has two upcoming garden projects:

- Hillel: Campus Sustainability Day, 5 – 8 pm, garden showcase including dinner and an educational movie.
- Reseda planting project: Bhongir has about 30 interested volunteers, 24th of October is potential date, plants for now, trees maybe later.

CSUN Farmers' Market

Wohldmann reported that the Campus Farmers' Market was an agenda item for the President's Cabinet. Unfortunately, the item was removed from the agenda. A student has created a petition to urge President Koester to support the Farmers' Market. Other members of the group requested the link to the petition so they could pass it on to interested students. Wohldmann offered to send the link over email to the Core Team. Wohldmann emphasized the important part that students play in making something like this move forward.

Wohldmann also reported that there have been five recommended locations on campus.

Toker reported that with a faculty member gone, there is no one to run the class that had been working on the Farmers' Market feasibility project. Toker also said that she would be looking into the potential of the project being run out of her URBS design class.

Toker added that in the research that has been done in looking at other campuses with farmers' markets, the markets provide a venue for the community to congregate, to hold events, etc.

Transit Center

Wilson reported that there was a first "kick off" meeting. Proposed location of Transit Center will be north of University Hall, from Darby Street onto Vincentes (currently metro runs down Reseda). Wilson reported that he had a good meeting with the Metro and has drafted two letters to them. There will be an open comment meeting on October 7, 1:00 p.m. in the Whitsett Room with the Associated Students Environmental Affairs Committee (EAC), Transportation Working Group (TWG), and campus community regarding "blue sky ideas" about amenities to include in construction of the Transit Center. Wilson also reported that he has met with Dave Sutter regarding the transit subsidy that Associated Students has launched.

Transportation

Michaud reported that the TWG is seeking approval for their mission statement, which she wrote out on the white board. Discussion followed. Report also included mention that the TWG is in need of statistics regarding transportation patterns of everyone coming to and from campus. Questions in data collection should also include "future behavior" data. Michaud reported that the TWG currently meets two times a month. Cox adds that there should be a survey compiled by the end of Fall 2009 semester, and the surveys will be updated each semester.

Water, Student Activities

Best reported that she has been collecting data from other campuses in order to create benchmarks for CSUN's water consumption. Best also reported that she has a student currently working with her on our campus water footprint.

URBS495C Class (Sustainability Perspectives)

Cox reports that the students are being sponsored to attend the Envisioning California, Sustainability Conference on Oct. 16. Requested that Sherman look up required forms from risk management, to bring to the class to sign. Cox then opened up discussion regarding the class, and feedback included that breaks are important since it is such a long time to sit, should design a feedback form for the students after the class is over. Kurland added that she is working on a journal article and would like feedback regarding the course included in that paper.

ACTION ITEMS

- Sherman to look into refund options for the SCUP webcast, look up forms for class, look into deadlines with media, publicize events, post minutes on website, purchase parking permits for Water Day speakers.
- All: encourage attendance at Water Day and Campus Sustainability Day among faculty, staff, students and community.

Next meeting: Friday, October 23, 2009.