

California State University
Northridge

Academic Affairs

Greening Initiative Core Team Meeting

Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2010 | 2:00-4:00pm | SH 181

Attendees: Lisa Anderson (Developmental Math), Sheela Bhongir (A.S.), Hedy Carpenter (Graduate Studies), Helen Cox (Geography), Hamid Johari (Mechanical Engineering), Nancy Kurland (Management), Kristy Michaud (Political Science), Kyriakos Pontikis (FCS), Cynthia Signett (A.S.), Glen Storey (Residential Life), Nathaniel Wilson (Facilities), Zeynep Toker (URBS), Vanessa Rosenberg (A.S.),

Minutes: Doron Weinstein (Institute)

I. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes of April 14th were approved by consensus.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Johari reported that CSUN applied for an energy grant with University of California, Irvine, Caltech, Glendale and Saddleback Community Colleges.

Carpenter visited San Jose State University during a day of service on campus and reported that more than 1000 staff and students participated. In addition, the USU had a “Green Wall” – where students placed book covers that referred to green issues. This could be a potential project for PPM or the Oviatt Library.

Cox commented that recycling at SJSU is run by students in addition to many other campus greening efforts. SJSU is a large commuter campus, like CSUN, so it’s a good model to learn from.

III.I.S. REPORT

- **Sustainability Conference**

Cox asked members if they would like to attend the conference June 20-23,.

Wilson noted that conference details would be updated on the website soon.

- **Trees**

Cox reported that the project is now finished and the results were distributed electronically. In addition, the Institute for Sustainability hired a new web/tech student to help create an interactive map of the tree project and other sustainability sites on campus.

- **Faculty Associates**

Cox reported that the Faculty Associates application is now available on the Institute website which is designed to recognize faculty for their participation in the committee. Cox commented that there are specific roles the Institute would like faculty to fulfill: Transportation, Curriculum, Food and Garden, Water, Community

working groups. In addition, the Institute would like to expand community/neighborhood projects.

- **TWG**

Cox reported that 16 people attended the last meeting and it was very productive.

- **Rideshare program**

Cox reported that the Institute is working with Zimride to implement the rideshare program on campus. Zimride requested \$9,000 as an annual fee, which is negotiable. Bhongir reported that A.S. president, Conor Lansdale, would prefer to have students use the program without subscribing rather than paying \$9000 a year.

A discussion of the pros and cons of this approach occurred, including possible marketing strategies and follow-up with Zimride and Ridelinks. Some suggestions included offering preferred parking for people who carpool and Anderson suggested we use Moodle to advertise.

- **Recycling**

Cox reported that the Institute wrote a letter in support of the new recycling facility.

Wilson commented that the master plan for next year will be published in July and it may be too late to enter an update. Cox will follow-up with Donahue about this issue.

IV. EARTH DAY

Carpenter reported that the Institute booth was a great success. It was very busy, several hundred students may have attended and many signed-up for listservs.

Cox added that the game to identify sustainability features on campus to win a prize was very successful and attracted many students.

Bhongir reported that the AS booth was busy as well, surveys were distributed to students asking for feedback on the event.

V. COMMUTE SURVEY

Michaud reported that the commuting survey included a random sample of 1,500 students and 1,000 staff/faculty. According to the results most respondents drive alone to campus, while 66% have no problem carpooling and 50% have no problem using public transportation. According to the survey, a bus station on campus will increase the amount of students who will take the bus. Bicyclists are bothered most by bicycle theft and safety on roads. They would like bike lockers; classes and showers are less of a concern. A discussion about bicycling followed including whether more racks and lockers should be provided and the location of racks.

Michaud noted that a full report will be out soon with all survey results. It would be a good idea to create a press release because of the high interest in this project.

Toker suggested that one of the Urban Design classes would work on a project of redesigning the CSUN campus to make it more bicycle friendly.

Glen added that UC Davis is a good example for a bicycle friendly campus. Cars are not allowed on campus and the police department uses bicycles.

VI. CSUN GREENING REPORT

Kurland gave a presentation on the evolution on the CSUN sustainability network. She interviewed people across campus over the past three years. Glen commented that it is not easy to get people involved because everybody has their own agenda.

VII. WORKING WITH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

Anderson reported her research of Neighborhood councils. There are many neighborhood councils in the SFV which the local government provides funds of \$45,000 each a year. Many of the councils don't use all of the funds, which then go to waste. On average, they use only 50% of these funds (records are available online). Anderson added that we have 25 neighborhood councils around CSUN and it's a good idea to develop communication with those councils. Records show that 70% of CSUN Alumni live within a 30 miles radius of campus, which mean that there is a high probability CSUN graduates are on neighborhood councils. Anderson commented that once we form a relationship with a neighborhood council, we can begin talking to other government agencies. A discussion occurred on the best approach to working with neighborhoods without necessarily approaching them for money. Toker reported that she worked with Greg Smith (Granada Hills Council) to redesign a park in Granada Hills. Developing a strong relationship with the community is a good idea and if we can take on projects that involve our students, we can increase that bond. Toker added that she will work on looking for community projects that can involve students.

VIII. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Storey reported that there is a large amount of waste from the dorms at the end of each year. Cox noted that we will discuss this at the next meeting. Glen Storey will take photos to present at the next meeting.

Cox commented that Tom Brown is leaving CSUN and invited members to attend the Institute for Sustainability Advisory Board meeting May 26 at 4:00 pm.

Next meeting: June 11, UN 211

IX. ACTION ITEMS

- The Green Wall could be a potential project for PPM or the Oviatt Library.
- Cox will follow-up with Donahue about including the new recycling center in the master plan.
- Storey will take photos of the trash being thrown out of the dorms and will bring it to the next meeting.
- Create a press release for the commute survey report.