

## Sustainability Council minutes, June 19, 2015

Attendance: recorded at 15

- Pope's encyclical was released on June 18. Some good info here:
  - <http://www.news.va/en/news/laudato-si-a-press-guide-to-the-new-encyclical>
  - <http://jesuits.org/story?TN=PROJECT-20150617094941>
- Mission Statement discussion – see updated final version attached.
- New statue outside of Harper has an eternal flame. It has been brought to our attention (people are approaching Council members) that it is a waste of resources. The Council will address this with administration.
  - Safety considerations: students taking selfies on concrete, possibility of throwing something into the fire, etc.
  - Can it only burn during special occasions?
    - Would heighten impact without diminishing intention
    - We are concerned about the message and discussion on campus from many sectors (have not solicited this information) diminish the impact and intention of the flame. Consider a more targeted use to ritualize the burning of this flame rather than trivialize it.
  - Will wait and see how much is being used – quantity
- Students working on composting with Sodexo. A meeting between Sodexo, WeCompost, and other campus constituents is in the works.
- New president: we need to talk to him and tell him who we are and what we're about.
- How do we give more concrete solutions to administration
  - Have meetings with administration to offer solutions
  - Choose three areas to align with and help them implement
  - Align activities with Strategic Plan
    - Figure out what those groups are
    - Send our participants to their meetings
    - How does sustainability help you get to where you need to be?
    - Rally fac/staff/students
  - Use Climate Action Plan
    - See what matches up
    - Next month, plan on working on this.

## Announcements:

- WasteCap Nebraska will host meetings in Lincoln and Omaha on June 18 and July 23 respectively, to review recommendations of the newly released Nebraska Recycling Study, and facilitate discussions on emerging issues related to recycling, composting, landfills and the garbage hauling industry. The meetings are free and open to the public, and will be of particular interest to solid waste service providers, policy makers and citizens. The Omaha meeting will be

held on Thursday, July 23 at Papio-Missouri River NRD headquarters, 8901 S. 154<sup>th</sup> Street in Omaha from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Online registration is required: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=954vybeab&oeidk=a07eb3zs5mpc0420699>

- Consistent with the university’s mission and existing sustainability practices, Georgetown’s board of directors today (June 4, 2015) passed a [resolution](#) stating that the university will not make or continue any direct investments of endowment funds in companies whose principal business is mining coal for use in energy production.
  - Xavier is using the opportunity to “sen[d] it to the endowment managers and copied those involved in finance, energy purchasing, academic sustainability, and encyclical discernment.” Also: “Rather than wanting any specific outcome at this University, I want there to be an open, informed dialogue on campus in which students and the community take part, with the deepest possible personal and institutional review of everything that our modern world uses (so much stuff) and does (so much energy).”
  - Xavier’s president supports this. “Ann, this might be a place where the "mission animators" might join forces to help shape such an open conversation at Xavier.”

#### Upcoming events:

- Next meeting is July 17 @ 2pm in Eppley 119.
- St. Francis Day: October 5, 2015
  - Planning meeting September 10 at 10 pm at CCSJ

**Preamble:**

In alignment with Catholic Social Teaching and our Jesuit tradition, the Creighton University Sustainability Council's mission is to support and advocate for lifestyle and institutional changes to create a more sustainable campus and a just, global community for current and future generations.

**Mission Statement:**

The Sustainability Committee advances sustainable practices on campus through education, research, activities, development, and operations, to make social, environmental and economic sustainability integral to the culture of Creighton University.

**Goal Statements:****What we do.**

Work with administrators, faculty, students, staff and alumni to implement the campus sustainability plan (Climate Action Plan) with standards for curricular, research, operation, investment, and public service endeavors

**How we do it.**

Engage the campus in an ongoing dialogue about sustainability, and enhance communications across all segments of the community. Instill a culture of sustainable long-term planning and forward-thinking.

**Whom we do it for.**

Serve as a partner in sustainability with our campus neighbors, the city of Omaha, and the global community via university operations, training and education across the curriculum.

**What values we bring.**

Promote conscious stewardship of God's creation driven by our Jesuit tradition of social justice, our service to humanity, and our role as an institution of higher education.

**Accomplishments:**

The Sustainability Council has demonstrated this commitment through a variety of accomplishments since 2010, including but not limited to:

- Fr. John Schlegel, SJ signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment in 2010
- Fr. Timothy Lannon, SJ continued the commitment by signing the St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor in 2013
- Developed several majors, including those in Energy Technology and Sustainability
- Became the first Jesuit university to be designated a Fair Trade University
- Partnered with Goodwill to divert over 60 tons of materials from the residence halls
- Established the GreenJays student sustainability group and the Creighton Center for Service and Justice's Sustainability Advocacy Group
- Incorporated sustainability as one of the five pillars of CCSJ service trips and developed a host of sustainability-themed trips
- Developed and installed more sustainable landscaping
- Active participant in Annual Climate Conference, inclusive of Provost attendance

- Since 2010, annual Recyclmania campaign has accumulated over XX tons of recyclable materials that might otherwise have found their way into area landfills

#### UPDATES

- In 2007 CCSJ formalized sustainability as one of their 7 Service and Justice Trips pillars. Since then they have expanded the possible sustainability learning experiences open to students each year. These include urban agriculture, energy extraction and organic farming among others.

Instead of

The Sustainability Council has demonstrated this commitment through a variety of accomplishments since 2010, including but not limited to:

Put:

The Sustainability Council has demonstrated this commitment by supporting and encouraging a variety of accomplishments with partners across campus since 2008, including but not limited to:

Instead of:

- Since 2010, annual Recyclmania campaign has accumulated over XX tons of recyclable materials that might otherwise have found their way into area landfills
- Since 2010, annual Recyclmania campaign has encouraged the campus to recycle over 700 (1.4 million pounds) tons of recyclable materials that might otherwise have found their way into area landfills