

Sustainability Council minutes, January 20, 2017

Attendance: recorded at 8

- Becky Crowell introduced herself; she is the Administrative Assistant for PACS and three academic programs (Sustainability, Environmental Sciences, and Energy Technology) .
- Recyclemania update. Pete and Becky gave an overview of the contest. Becky says she will do the administrative work in the absence of Sustainability Coordinator. She and Pete had met earlier in the day to discuss.
- President's Advisory Committee Updates (PACS) update: Andrew offered that the group is working on the framework for evaluation projects (impact, cost, etc.)
- IRHG updates None
- SCSJ Updates Marie offered that they are encouraging students to attend community meetings related to sustainability and get involved in advocacy groups. She mentioned distributing postcards at organized events.
- Jays Dig Deep Updates None
- A member had a question about an agreement he thought existed with Sodexo to phase out Styrofoam over several years. His observation is that Styrofoam had gone away but was now finding its way back into their operations. He said he spoke with a manager, who offered no information. He would like an update/follow-up info.
- GreenJays Updates: None.
- Ed wanted to share that the greenhouse gas data will be sent to Mary Duda by Wednesday of next week.

Upcoming events:

- Next meeting is February 17 @ 2pm in Eppley 119

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

What principles, practices, and/or specific projects Creighton University needs to engage in to establish the required credibility to participate with other well-respected institutions (of higher learning in teaching/service/research, and with community groups, business, and funders) in activities of sustainability. What are the activities we need to establish or refine in order to achieve institutional credibility among our peers as an institution that takes seriously the threats of the planetary emergency?

- Finish off any "low hanging fruit" ...i.e. energy savings measures.
- Start with low-cost projects to show success and generate funds for future projects.
- Publicize/market the efforts. Recruit donors.
- Find effective recycling infrastructure.
- Forget about the focus on recycling, which is low-impact and high-cost, and focus on reducing..."ban the bottle", "ban the bag"-type initiatives.
- Public advocacy by students is a must.
- Global vision, global impact.

- Sell the impact of low-cost projects.
- Hot topics that are foundational to a sustainability image: transportation options, zero-waste events/waste reduction, core credit courses in sustainability, signage/awareness that puts impact of project in real-life terms, expand renewable energy efforts and make them visible.

What are the principles, practices, and/or specific projects that establish the distinctive character of Creighton University in our response to the planetary emergency. What activities of sustainability will distinguish Creighton University's unique, Jesuit, mission-based, locally-situated, globally-aware response and, thus, establish us as a leader among other AJCU institutions, in our city and region, and in national and global commitments.

- Be a benchmark for success...you've succeeded when others ask you how you did it.
- Care for the poor...social/power inequalities.
- Residence halls adopt a local elementary? They do partner with local non-profits. Change how CU students are viewed in the community (typically viewed as wealthy) yet our affiliates are very involved in the community. Dual community image. Again...marketing?!
- Publicize efforts and impact...awareness!
- Do we build LEED-certifiable buildings?
- Create a centralized list of service trips, partnerships, etc. that have an impact on sustainability.
- Tackle financial conflicts of interest/divestment conflicts. Missing responsible divestment options that TIAA CREF offered, not available with Principal.