

Sustainability Council Meeting
Minutes

March 20, 2009

Members Present: Noted at about 15

Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the February 20, 2009 meeting were acknowledged

Discussion about the community recycle collection point – why don't people use it? There are two main reasons. First, the dumpster is facing away from the street, so people don't know what it is. Could we either turn it around to face Cuming Street *or* put signs on the back? Also, the parking lot looks like it belongs to MAT and not to Creighton. Again, a sign may help.

Ideas were discussed for the Earth Day celebration: Offer IDEA points (Student Services division) or points through IRHG, CSU etc to get more people to attend. Tony Parker, custodian in the Student Center, may be a good person to have at Earth Day, as he has built his own electric motorcycle. Perhaps have a raffle – a prize suggested was a bag of OmaGrow, since that's what we use on campus. A discussion of bottled water followed – Cheri Annin is working on information to present at the Earth Day table. Another idea: could we have part of the Earth Day celebration at the Harper Center? Perhaps park one of the alternate-fuel vehicles on the mall there, with a table outside or just inside the main door?

Jessica introduced Arbor Day – voting on the “tree of the year” with the hopes of starting an annual tradition. She asked for ideas about where to put the plaque. Ideas included finding out where the tours go and putting them in prominent spots along the tour, the Harper Center, or rotating it among several departments (to ensure maximum exposure) and then putting it in a permanent home. There was also interest in having Jessica do a lunch and learn/Q&A for homeowners.

We talked a bit about incorporating social justice into the mission. Ken Reed-Bouley will take a closer look at the policy and see where we can add social justice explicitly. Ken also introduced Ken Homan, who is the new CSU Mission Coordinator. One of the 4 aspects of this position is sustainability and Ken H is excited to be a part of it, especially the areas where sustainability and social justice connect. Ken R-B and several students from the Peace and Justice Co-op met with Ed DuPree and Joe Zaborowski from Purchasing to discuss social justice/sustainability issues. The students were pleased with what purchasing is already doing and are not sure what their next step should be. They do want to meet with Facilities people to discuss similar issues.

Fair Trade coffee was then up for discussion. Host, the approved supplier for Creighton, does offer a Fair Trade option, but few departments buy it, mostly due to cost.

There was a brief discussion of our Education Sustainability Forum on 3/13. Ken R-B wonders if the schools that were involved could band together to purchase sustainable items, etc., using economies of scale.

Single-stream recycling came to Boyne on March 17. Faculty members are angry about the change. They are already recycling and feel that they are being treated like children by being forced to do something they were happy to do anyway. They do not like the inconvenience of having no trash can. Another issue is that they feel that their trash cans were stolen – the cans were purchased by the department. Mavis Hall also works in the Boyne Building and said that her department has not had an issue with the recycling. She put signs on the bins and gave out plastic bags to use as trash cans. The question was raised of keeping the trash cans. Mary Duda explained that the reason the trash cans are taken is to make recycling the default option; the suggestion was made of moving the trash can instead of taking it away completely. There was much discussion on how to communicate, etc. It appears that the smaller departments (for instance, Student Center, Mavis Hall's department, Murphy Building) understood better what was going on and were less resistant to change.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30.

Next meeting April 17 at 2 pm in the UP Room