

Sustainability Council minutes, March 21, 2014

Attendance: Natalie Cummings, Stuart Shell, Mary Duda, Rich Jehlik, Bill Hamilton, Barbara Dilly,, Andrew Baruth, Kelly Tadeo Orbik, Kat Istas, Larry Hopp, Amy Helms, Amal Barre

- Monitor now operational in Harper
 - Share with admissions – our portion is ~10%
 - Keep in mind that the people seeing this will be many visitors as well as Creighton people
 - What info to put on?
 - Information about what Creighton is doing
 - # of motion sensors
 - Energy-saving measures
 - Other information
 - Advertisements for meetings, speakers, etc.
 - Fun facts like how people can make an impact
 - Information about load curtailment in the summer
 - Sustainability and how it relates to the mission, Jesuits, Catholic church etc.
 - Greenhouse gas information
 - Awards/recognitions
- Earth Day
 - April 23, table reserved 11 am – 1 pm inside and outside, weather dependent
 - After discussion, the council decided that there are plenty of things going on that week that the students are in charge of and we do not need to have our table.
 - Wednesdays After Class (WAC) on April 23 is sustainability-themed
 - April 24: Information on banning plastic bags on campus, including a “Bag Monster” to bring attention to the issue
 - A Council member can provide instructions to the students to make their own bags
 - “We Matter Walk” April 25
 - Outdoor activities, including 2 singers, 3-4:30 pm on Skutt lawn to promote sustainability
 - Walk at 4:30
 - Something on April 22 but not sure what yet.
- Sustainability and Strategic planning:
 - A Council member has discussed the addition of a sustainability insert to the employee handbook with Molly Billings and Jan Madsen in conjunction with the strategic planning effort. No firm acceptance at this time, but the idea was identified as being linked to the success of University-wide cost reduction efforts.
 - Cost reduction efforts directly linked to sustainability included:
 - Reduction of styrofoam/plastic containers by Sodexo
 - Reductions in utility utilization (sealing windows, door and building panel joints)

- Paper reductions (electronic vs. hard copy distributions to students and employees)
- Purchasing Sourcing show update
 - Worth doing again next year because a good number of people stopped by the table
 - Posters, information, a “Guess which are and are not recyclable” game with prizes
- CSA: Wenninghoff’s. Must sign up by June 1.
 - Pick up at Labaj Building on Thursday afternoons
 - Listserv to share recipes
- Ignatian Garden sign up this week
 - For information and to be entered into the lottery for your own plot contact Ignatian Garden Coordinator John Schwede: johnschwede@creighton.edu, 402-510-2271 by Monday March 24th, 2014.
 - <http://www.creighton.edu/about/sustainability/landscape/>
- St. Francis Day planning
 - Start next month
 - Barbara Dilly is working with Sodexo to provide a campus-wide meal this year
- Discussion of Sustainability Awards
 - One for a student that exemplifies the spirit of the St. Francis Pledge, to be announced at St. Francis Day
 - Have different categories that students could excel at
 - One for student groups (residence halls, clubs, sororities/fraternities, etc) that set and meet sustainability goals to be announced on or around Earth Day
 - Need a small group to put together an application, guidelines, announcements, etc.
- A member suggested putting a hotline or suggestion box online. It should be available soon.
- Recyclemania continues. Mary Duda provided an update; currently we have recycled 6.04 lbs/person, with a total of 63,000 lbs. Last year at this time, we had recycled 74,000 lbs.
- Wes Jackson presentation April 11 at 3:00 PM “We Can Now Solve the Oldest Environmental Problem”
- Arbor Day celebration:
 - Posters across campus celebrating trees
 - Part of the festival before the We Matter walk
- Need presidential support for STARS
 - \$900 for first registration, \$450 after that
 - Rating is in effect for 3 years, but can re-submit every 12 months.
 - There was a discussion on whether we should ask for the money and support. The group decided that we should take a look at our submission and see what we think we would get; if it’s good, ask for the support. If not, use the submission as a guide/benchmark to get towards a better score and then ask for support.
 - Admissions was mentioned as a possible source of funding, since this is something they could use in finding students
- There was a short discussion of landscaping

- Folks would like to see more edible landscaping
- Barbara Dilly and Andy Waltke are working on a proposal for a Center for Urban Agriculture
 - Look at landscaping/planting on campus
 - Possibly planters near residence halls
 - Gain visibility for urban agriculture on campus
- The group discussed handing out reusable bags at events, etc
 - There is a group of CCSJ students working on a proposal for providing reusable bags to resident students to use at grab-and-go and retail locations on campus
 - Have gained support from several student groups
 - Meeting with Residence Life next month
 - There was interest in the Council providing bags to faculty/staff as well
- Stuart Shell from RDG has offered to help us take a look at becoming a “Bike Friendly University”. This is a program of the League of American Cyclists. By completing the application, we receive free consulting from the League (a third-party) that offers us validation for what we’re doing as well as guidance and motivation to provide amenities to promote biking on campus
 - We will get a meeting together for April.

Upcoming events:

- Earth Week, April 23-25
- Wes Jackson presentation April 11 at 3:00 PM
- We Matter walk April 25

Next meeting is cancelled, as it is on Good Friday. However, the Council encourages folks to participate in the many upcoming activities in April, such as Earth Week, the Wes Jackson lecture, and the subcommittees.