

Sustainability Council Meeting
Minutes

April 15, 2011

Members Present: Noted at 15 members

There were not minutes from the March, 2011 meeting.

Lennis Pederson told the Council that Mark Simanek attended a meeting with Curt Simon, Metro Area Transit, regarding extending the bus ridership programs like those in place at UNO and Metro to Creighton. There was extreme willingness from Mr. Simon to participate by reducing fares 50% to credentialed Creighton constituents. Lennis said he would develop a sub-committee of the Council to further develop the program.

A sub-committee of the Council has been established to develop a program for parking all electric cars on campus. The first meeting of the group has been scheduled to consider the issues related to such parking.

All members are encouraged to attend Earth Day on April 20, 2011. The program is as large as ever compared to recent past. Numerous indoor and outdoor activities are planned.

Wes Muncy with Sodexo has given the farmer's market project a jump start with his invocative thinking. Lupreno's, a food purveyor for Sodexo, will collaborate with local farmers to sell locally grown produce through Sodexo. This is consistent with the contract between Sodexo and Creighton. Sodexo will not add a profit to the sales. The market is planned for July and exact dates and times will be announced.

To enhance awareness of Sustainability and the Sustainability Council on campus, the topic may be presented to SAC on June 9th. Lennis will elect people to make the presentation. Frank Reida and Stephanie Wernig have agreed to be part of the presenting team.

The Omaha Green Business Council issues certificates to those institutions and businesses that demonstrate a solid sustainability program. Since Creighton is so active on the subject, the application will be easily completed. Lennis will appoint a team to complete the application on behalf of Creighton.

Ed Dupree was not present but had reported that the sub-committee he convenes to have Creighton registered as a Fair Trade Campus is progressing. The committee is about done and ready to file for the designation.

Mary Duda displayed the Creighton sustainability logo as it had been revised following comments received at the March council meeting. The logo, designed by Joel Davies' class, was approved by the Council. The logo will be incorporated into handouts displayed on the April 20, 2011, Earth Day celebration.

Joe Zaborowski led the meeting discussion on the Council's performance. Joe was assisted by Ken Reed-Bouley on a review of the Council's actions. The review was the first look at the executive summary. Joe asked the members to respond to him with comments so the audit could be finalized for acceptance at the May, Council meeting. Joe also displayed a chart indicating all the activities relative sustainability on campus. A copy of the executive summary is attached to these minutes.

Frank Reida reported that the EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse gases dodged multiple bullets during the week of April 4-8, 2011. As expected, the Republican dominated House of Representatives passed the "Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2009" which would strip the agency of its greenhouse gas regulatory authority.

Additionally, Frank reported that the EPA is considering allowing states that have greenhouse gas regulatory programs to use those programs as their measures for regulating existing power plants and refineries. The

Energy Information Administration's "moderately conservative" estimate of shale gas reserves implies that newly-accessible shale gas has increased total accessible global natural gas reserves by 40%.

Recycle Mania! is complete for this year. Pete Maas reported that last year, with bad reporting, for the last six weeks of the competition, a total of 58,320 pounds was recycled. This year, 104,535 pounds were recycled in the ten week contest period. Pete calculated that if the results from Recycle Mania! were annualized, the University would recycle over 540,000 tons of waste that might otherwise end up in the landfill.

Pete updated the Council on the activities of the Recycle Advisory Committee. Minutes from the April 7th, 2011 meeting are attached to these council minutes.

The Ingatian Community Garden is ready for planting. Jessica Heller reported that all 24 plots have been adopted. John Schwede will be the coordinator of the garden and attempt to keep orderliness to the activities. Jessica said there will be a planting celebration at the garden on April 29th for all the plot holders. She also said that Dawn Obermiller and the Wellness Council are excited to participate in educational aspects of the garden.

Jessica said the educational garden by Rigge may need to be delayed. With the likely departure from Creighton by the enthusiastic Mr. Andy Waltke it may delay the garden until the Biology Department has an opportunity to replace Andy.

Jim Dorsey was repairing bikes for the Bike Play Day planned to be part of Earth Day. Lennis Pederson reported on behalf of Jim that several actions are in place:

- 1) Abandoned bikes from campus are expected to be gathered for re-use in mid-may. Teresa Bohnet is working with Jim Dorsey on the program.
- 2) Meetings to identify space for an on campus bike repair shop have been scheduled.
- 3) Bikes not sold at the Bike Play Day will become part of the new Creighton bike library.
- 4) Matt Martin, from the Community Bike Shop, is helping Creighton become a recipient of grant money to enhance bike ridership on campus.
- 5) Jim Thompson, NRD Board of Directors is working with concerned entities including Creighton to identify bike trail projects in the neighborhood including Creighton. The trails include Burt Street.
- 6) Dustin Vice, with Facilities Management, is starting to repair abandoned bikes for inclusion in the bike library.

The meeting ended at 3:04 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for 2:00 pm in the Union Pacific room of the Reinert Alumni Library on May 20, 2011.