

Sustainability Council Meeting  
Minutes

April 19, 2013

Members Present: 20

The group discussed whether the Council should become a presidential committee. This idea came up at a meeting for the climate action plan. The main benefit of this would be that the Council would report directly to the president, as well as to faculty council. At this time, the decision was made to not pursue becoming a presidential committee. It is the experience of those that are on other presidential committees that people who are really interested in the topic at hand are left off the committee, while sometimes people with no interest are appointed. It is important to our Council that the people that want to be there can.

From that discussion, a suggestion was made to have “interest groups” or “action groups” focused on various aspects of sustainability. This would enable people with an interest in smaller aspects of sustainability to join. This will be discussed at summer meetings, including a possible “open house” at a meeting in the fall where people can come to express their interest and not feel like they are “crashing” an already-established committee.

The student representative has met with residence Life, Division of Student Life, and the Creighton Students Union to discuss sustainability and the Climate Action Plan with them. The CSU is ok with sustainability, as long as it does not raise fees/expenses for students. Some items of interest included the possibility of bus passes. The ZipCar needs to be advertised more. CSU is working to make events more eco-friendly.

The Give-and-Go project for move-out in the residence halls continues. A special thank-you will be sent to the campus community highlighting all the hard work John and Shirley Walker have done to establish this program; without them, Creighton would not have been chosen to participate in the pilot.

Earth Day was held on April 17; attendance was good. People were asked to write their sustainability ideas on a poster and to tell us where they think we need bike racks. Omaha’s CSO project attended as well as handouts and information.

Facilities/Public Safety still has a handful of refurbished bikes to sell. They will be sold at the opening of the bike co-op in McGloin. That opening is still set for August. B-Cycle has been tabled at this time; all groups (Sustainability Council, Wellness Council, GreenJays) that have looked at it agree that it is a lot of money that could be spent elsewhere.

St. Francis Day planning began. Tentative plans include mass at noon on October 4, followed by a lunch-and-learn/poster session. The annual Religion and the Environment Lecture is October 3. The next planning session is June 12 at 10 am if anyone is interested in helping.

The Climate Action Plan continues to be developed and is 95% finished at this time. Next up, we need to start implementing some of the steps.

oneShirt clothing drive is April 17-22. Look for bins to donate your clothes/shoes/coats.

Meeting adjourned a little after 3 pm.

Next meeting: May 17 at 2 pm in Harper 2060.