

Sustainability Council Meeting
Minutes

April 20, 2012
2:00 PM

Members Present: Noted at 12

The minutes from the March 16th, 2012 meeting were acknowledged as accurate.

Special thanks to Amber Bruyere for bringing cookies for everyone.

The opportunities to enhance the Sustainability program with the help of Pepsi were discussed:

- a) Mary Duda and Ryan Lahne continue to evaluate the Pepsi Dream machine as a way to recycle plastic bottles and reward people using the machine. Concern is about haulers and best locations.
- b) Mary and Ryan will continue to develop ideas for using the annual \$5,000 from Pepsi as a condition of the contract for enhancing the Sustainability program on campus. Some of the ideas already listed are:
 - Expand the small grants program
 - Purchase recycle containers
 - Pay for recycle advocates among the residence halls
 - Sponsor educational programs

The RecycleMania! program had just ended. Pete Maas informed the Council that 12,000 pounds of commodity were collected over the previous year. Cardboard collection was down but other projects increased in volume.

Earth Week was reviewed. As after action comments, it was agreed that the program had good content but there should be younger presenters delivering the message.

Stephanie Wernig could not be at the meeting. Her efforts at having Creighton recognized in Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges were applauded. Creighton is one of 322 colleges recognized for "Greening" efforts. Creighton is the only school from Nebraska recognized.

Lennis Pederson distributed a copy of the recently refreshed executive summary of Sustainability Information – the document prepared by Joe Zaborowski and Ken Reed-Bouley is used regularly to promote the Sustainability program.

Jessica Heller was recognized for her efforts in having Creighton recognized for 2011 Tree Campus USA. This is the 4th year for the recognition.

Frank Reida discussed concerns for the environment of recent importance:

- a) The Ft. Calhoun Electrical Plant will not be on-line in time for supplying electricity to meet the summer peak demands for electricity. Consequently, OPPD will be required to buy electricity off of the grid.
- b) The EPA's new requirements for cleaner discharge from coal fired plants are more symbol than substance. Regulations from the EPA will set maximum limits on carbon dioxide emissions from future plants that are too tough for any current coal technology to meet. Many utilities are already scrapping plans for new coal-fired plants in favor of cheap natural gas. Tighter regulations on existing plants are expected if Obama is re-elected.

Lennis reported that the Alternative Energy Project is drawing to a close with the last phase of work being the installation of a solar powered water heater in Hixson-Lied. There will be thermal panels installed on buildings into the next school year as students continue to make class projects out of the work.

Joe Zaborowski reported that his task of updating the Green House Gas inventory was progressing. He has all the information needed except fuel consumption for utility generation.

Lennis gave a quick updates on the various program on campus:

- a) The possibility of a biking trail on campus continues to move along. Support is strong.
- b) The bike repair shop in McGloin Hall is progressing through approvals.
- c) Interested constituents are planning a Prairie Garden for campus.
- d) The Council would like to expand the small grant's program.

Barb Dilley volunteered to present about Sustainability at the freshman orientation program in August. She will be working on a presentation through the summer. The work may include public relations tools like door hangers and brochures.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.

The next meeting is May 18th, 2012 at 2:00 pm in the Union Pacific Room.