

Sustainability Council minutes, May 16, 2014

Attendance was sparse due to extensive graduation activities: Andres Rodriguez-Burns, April Rice, Bill Hamilton, Amy Helms, Mary Duda, Jessica Heller

- “Start by doing what is necessary; then what is possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.” St. Francis
- Energy Technology students –
 - Electric charging station. The student group has the go-ahead for 3 electric car charging stations on campus: 20th Street garage, McGloin parking lot, 24th Street garage. Aerovironment is the vendor. At this time, it will be free to charge your vehicle; a community will be set up to ensure the stations are shared and cars move when they are fully charged.
 - Pond was not approved, but students have alternative plans for piping water out of Rigge basement to a 10,000 gallon tank to be used for irrigation.
 - Solar lighting designed for steps from Hixson-Lied to Burt Street. May have structural issues.
 - A passive solar heater was installed by the fourth group on the “golf cart garage” across the street from the Jelinek Building on Burt Street.
 - 2 Energy Technology students are working as interns in the Energy Management office.
- Omaha Commuter Challenge: reminder to sign up and enter to win prizes. Heartlandcommuterchallenge.com. There are individual and team awards. Bike, walk, carpool, bus to or from work. You can also count walking to meetings on campus if you would’ve driven otherwise.
- Discussion of Sustainability Awards
 - One for a student that exemplifies the spirit of the St. Francis Pledge, to be announced at St. Francis Day
 - One for student groups (residence halls, clubs, sororities/fraternities, etc) that set and meet sustainability goals to be announced on or around Earth Day
 - A small group has been working on developing the application
 - Will need people to look at applications in the fall
 - Will be announced at St. Francis Day lunch
 - Will need to announce call for nominations right when school starts up
 - Discussion of how this compares to awards given by USGBC . Their awards are very generic: Most Sustainable Building, etc.
 - What does the awardee get? Need to discuss.
 - One thought is a plaque in the Student Center like other university awards
 - Idea: add something sustainable to the university grounds/area with recipient’s name. Something like a permeable paver in a rain garden, a rock in a native prairie garden. Probably can’t be implemented by

October but should be looked at for the future. Perhaps some sort of dedicated garden/area. Something in the Ignatian Garden?

- Needs a name
 - Sustainability is a broad subject that catches many different aspects: need to have that in the name somehow.
 - St. Francis of Assisi Student Award for Sustainable Action: too long
 - Spirit of St. Francis Award
 - Creighton Sustainability Award – tells exactly what it is.
 - Award for Excellence in Sustainability
 - Award for Achievement in Sustainability
 - Add something about St. Francis to one of the above
- St. Francis Day planning continues. Friday, October 3, 2014.
 - Barbara Dilly is working with Sodexo to provide a campus-wide meal this year
 - Mass at noon, Fr. Lannon presiding.
 - Still can get involved if you're interested. Next meeting is Monday May 19 at 8:30 in Lower Swanson (Campus Ministry).
- The university recently received word that Creighton has been included in the Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges. According to The Princeton Review, "this guide ... is the only free, comprehensive resource for college applicants that focuses solely on saluting colleges that have demonstrated a strong commitment to the environment and to sustainability."
- The university celebrated Earth Month this April with several events:
 - A visit by Wes Jackson, a leading thinker in the international sustainable agriculture movement and director of The Land Institute in Salina, KS. The visit included a public lecture, keynote speaker at the Environmental Sciences senior banquet, and discussions with classes and individuals.
 - A presentation focusing on environmental law in China and the U.S. by Shaoqing Guo, Visiting Legal Scholar in Environmental Law.
 - Earth Week events:
 - "Dust Off Your Bike" event sponsored by The Bike Nest
 - GreenJays table on the mall
 - Wednesdays After Class (WAC) sustainability-themed project
 - Information on reusable bags on the mall including the BAG MAN, lunchtime
 - Screening of "Growing Cities"
 - Second annual "We Matter" walk. The goal of this walk is to promote climate change awareness and to show that younger generations have a voice on the issue.
 - "Renewable Energy in 2030" lecture by Matt Abrams
 - "The Possibility of Rapid Social Change to Prevent the Climate Catastrophe" lecture by Alison Martin and Tommy Nemmers
 - Weeklong display on community gardening, gardening, and sustainability in Reinert/Alumni Library

- A virtual suggestion box has been installed on the Sustainability Council website for people to offer suggestions and ideas.
- Ignatian Garden is going well; this is the fourth year at 18th and Cuming Streets.
 - There is a wait list of about 30 people; biggest waitlist so far
 - All plots went quickly
 - If a waitlist this long persists, will have to look at another/bigger garden. Perhaps move it closer to campus
 - A community is building in the garden
 - Spring kickoff Garden Party was extremely well-attended; almost everyone participated.
 - A great mix of faculty/staff/students; more students are participating every year.
- Once again, the university partnered with Goodwill and Keep America Beautiful for the Give-and-Go partnership for residence hall move-outs.
- Discussion of the fact that Sodexo charges \$5/place setting for reusable china, but disposable is free. This is an incentive to use disposables, which are actually recyclable but typically don't get recycled.
 - Probably cheaper than paying someone to wash dishes
 - What about biodegradable instead of plastic?
 - Won't degrade in a landfill, so not much point unless we are composting.
 - What about composting in the community garden? Too much volume for the garden, plus concerns about meat, contaminants
 - Would requiring biodegradable cost enough to "encourage" them to switch back to washing dishes?
 - Is this a Sodexo-wide policy? Or just here?
 - Since the contract is housed in the Division of Student Life, it was determined to talk to that Vice Provost when s/he is hired.
- CSA (Community Supported Agriculture): Wenninghoff's. Must sign up by June 1.
 - Pick up at Labaj Building on Thursday afternoons
 - Listserv to share recipes
- STARS -- determining points
 - Mary and Ying are looking at this year's submission. Help would be appreciated for looking at this.
- The initial small group decided that becoming a "Bike Friendly University" is feasible. Wellness has become the champion for this initiative. Next meeting: Tuesday, May 20 at 9 am in Skutt near the fireplace.

Upcoming events:

- Healthy luncheon from Wellness Council: Wenninghoff Farms, cooking with fresh produce. June 4 at noon in Lower St. John's
- St. Francis Day: October 3, 2014. Details to follow.

Next meeting is June 20, 2014 in the Energy Technology Space

Recyclemania Final Results:

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total weight	87,045	99,217	90,417	79,952
Total/person	7.71	7.99	8.62	7.62
Cardboard/person	1.51	1.47	1.41	1.27
Paper/person	1.53	2.02	1.08	0.82
Bottles & Cans/person	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.52