

Sustainability Council minutes, May 17 2013

Attendance: 15

Mary Duda updated the group on the Climate Action Plan: John Wilhelm and Dan Burkey looked at it and offered some updates/changes that reflect economic realities. The plan has not yet been submitted. The Council is concerned that if the Plan is not in front of people, it will die and not be implemented. It needs to be part of the larger discussions across campus, including the strategic planning. Of course, some of the steps will naturally part of the preventive maintenance discussions.

People are still concerned about Lennis's replacement and whether he will be as interested and helpful with sustainability topics as Lennis was.

The results are in for the oneShirt clothing drive: Creighton came in SECOND in the nation, with a total of 4,862 pounds of clothes donated to the Heart Ministry Center. We also came in second with a total of 1.17 pounds/student. More clothes were donated after the official deadline, as well. The group is looking for help with next year's drive.

This was the inaugural year for the Goodwill Give and Go Program in the residence halls. There was a large article on the front page of the Living Section of the Omaha World-Herald <http://www.omaha.com/article/20130515/LIVING/705159991>. The program had a few hiccups throughout the week. Goodwill seemed to be overwhelmed with the amount of "stuff" that the students donated. There will be after-action discussions to determine how to improve for next year; Teresa Bohnet already has a plan to make it easier for next year. A thank-you to the Walker family was sent out via Jaynet, Creighton Today, etc.

Earth Day was held on April 17. Attendance was good. People were invited to write their best sustainability idea on a large sheet of paper. Also, a map of campus was available for people to indicate where bike racks were needed.

The GreenJays hosted the "We Matter Walk" on April 26. It was a great success. They also had Tom Breiding, a musician from West Virginia who speaks about the environmental and social impacts of coal mining in WV, speak several times that week, along with a concert before the walk.

Theresa Hawley has volunteered to be the host site for the CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). People are invited to sign up and then pick up their produce at the Labaj building on Thursdays. Need to sign up by June 1.

Creighton Sustainability in the news!

Front page of the World-Herald <http://www.omaha.com/article/20130506/NEWS/705069926/1685>

Mary Duda interview on KIOS: <http://kios.org/post/creighton-university-named-list-environmentally-responsible-colleges>

Mary Duda demonstrated the Creighotn Sustainability course created on BlueLine2 by Kathy Craig. The course has several modules relating to various aspects of sustainability. Completion of the course earns the participant a badge to be displayed on social media sites. The current course is designed for students. The group felt it was interesting and would only need small changes to be relevant for faculty

and staff. They would like to see it required for incoming students. Another addition could be “here are ways to be involved” which we could then tie to the special interest groups we are trying to start. A survey at the end would be helpful, as well, to gauge what was useful and what we could add.

The group discussed the possibility of having a radio show that would be 15-30 minutes long, once a month, highlighting Creighton sustainability topics. There was a lot of positive feedback from the short story on KIOS that prompted the discussion. We could discuss various projects and how they are relevant to sustainability. John O’Keefe has a podcast and a studio which we could ask if we could use, or possibly use KIOS’s studio. From this was a discussion of getting the word out on various media outlets. Twitter, email, etc were discussed. Apparently news channels are looking for interesting stories for weekend newscasts, especially. Mary D will talk to marketing and communications about this.

Some items that were briefly mentioned to discuss further at future meetings: "special interest groups", partnerships with No More Empty Pots (<http://nomoreemptypots.org/>).

Jessica Heller updated the group on the Ignatian Garden; it is currently full and people have started planting. OT/PT’s garden is doing well.