

Sustainability Council minutes, May 20, 2016

Attendance: recorded at 16

- Recycling presentation by Michelle Ferestad (Facilities Management) and Mary Duda. The presentation is available at <http://www.creighton.edu/about/sustainability/getinvolved/minutes/>. Comments and questions from the group included:
 - Need to have information about recycling in Summer Preview, Welcome Week, information on the mall at the beginning of school.
 - Need to have continuing education throughout the school year; keep it in front of people.
 - First-year students have educational sessions scheduled during Summer Preview; why is this not mandatory?
 - Similarly, should be mandatory for new faculty and staff, perhaps at their orientation
 - Mandatory information would cover recycling, but also general sustainability: care for creation, energy conservation, etc.
 - One of the issues, especially in residence halls, is that different states or cities have different guidelines on what should be recycled. This leads to, for instance, glass contamination in the recycling.
 - Some felt that the students are more aware of sustainability and it is the faculty and staff that could use more training.
 - Need to have Sodexo on board, both in the kitchens and in the dining halls and event spaces
 - Why are we still purchasing Styrofoam? Sodexo says it is no longer in their operations, but cups can still be purchased through PayLESS
 - Changing the recycling bins to blue in event spaces may help; people are more aware of the blue bins. Also, as the use of the buildings and personnel have changed, this may be more attainable.
 - Are Starbucks cups recyclable? A lot seem to wind up in the trash.
 - In some ways, single stream is “too easy” – people don’t think too much about it. But if there were signs on the bins saying things like “Recycle your bottle here!” people would think about the bottle in their hand and do the right thing.
 - We need to model this behavior from the very beginning and set the tone for the year, at things like the President’s Picnic at Welcome Week. Maybe students could help monitor the bins and act as role models; this is something that the sustainability delegation saw at Loyola-Chicago.
 - The plates don’t fit in the bins in the Harper Center. They don’t fit in the trash, either, but if you are opening the trash can, you might as well throw it all in.
- Thanks a million! The university has saved approximately \$1,000,000 on utilities over last year. (Table with details is below). This is a combination of the excellent work done by Facilities Management to conserve energy, along with the efforts of the campus community at conserving energy.
 - Some projects included lab/fume hood conversions in Criss II/II and new valves on steam lines
 - Energy conservation has been a focus of a committee for the last 2 ½ years
- From Fr. Hendrickson on May 10: “Today, I am announcing the formation of the President’s Advisory Council on Sustainability, which will help me develop priorities for the University in this area and thoughtfully inform future planning. I have asked Dr. Mary Ann Vinton (MAV), Associate Professor of

Biology and Director of the Environmental Sciences program, and Dr. Jay Leighter (JL), Associate Professor in the Department of Communication Studies and Director of Sustainability Studies, to serve as co-chairs.

The Advisory Council will be comprised of faculty, staff, students, and community partners, and I invite anyone with an interest in future sustainability efforts at Creighton to either self-nominate or nominate a colleague through this [online form](#). Student representatives will be chosen in the fall through a process that is still to be determined.”

- Came out of upper Midwest AJCU climate change conferences/collaborations. Provost tasked with Creighton’s response (2015). Variety of administrators, fac, staff, Jesuits, students over 2 years attended a sustainability conference for AJCU schools at Loyola-Chicago.
 - 2015: Came back with a long list of ideas to do.
 - 2016: Came back with the thought to advocate for a stronger structure, including a Sustainability Coordinator. Point was made very strongly that this is what is needed at Creighton.
 - Provost asked JL and MAV to lead this committee after they had headed up the delegation the past two years.
- Note that the current Sustainability Council is referred to as the “Council” whereas the President’s Advisory group is referred to as a “Committee” in these minutes.
- Tasked with facilitating a broad-based group to get the university to this structure
- 27 people have been nominated so far; many seem to be “not the usual people”.
- MAV and JL are not deciders – they are facilitators
- Questions about the makeup of the group: How many? How to select? What kind of reporting? Who sets priorities for Sustainability Coordinator? (possibly Committee)
- Questions from the Council:
 - Is VPAdmin involved in this process?
 - Any leadership from Board of Trustees?
 - Will the Committee go on forever? Not sure.
 - Is one of the goals to roll this into the overall curriculum? (as opposed to specific classes)?
 - Timeframe for hiring a Sustainability Coordinator? University apparently is committed to creating this position. Does the committee come first? Preference is to have committee to have input.
- What is the difference between the Committee and the Council?
 - Sustainability Council had an inability to get resources.
 - Committee: bring in voices to advise what priorities should be. Too much work for Committee to do alone
 - Council is a deliberative place to talk about different concerns; people to go between the groups. Committee to be inclusive of other groups; Council has always been inclusive of other groups.
- Email said that students will be chosen in the fall; makes it seem like it is not urgent
- Need alumni/parent input

- Goal from the Committee is for the Coordinator to be at VP level eventually, but right now there is no “perfect” place to put it.

Upcoming events:

- Next meeting is June 17 @ 2pm in Eppley 119.
- St. Francis Day festivities: October 2016. Details TBA

Announcements:

- Initial planning meeting for St. Francis Day was held in May; further meetings will be held over the summer. Ideas include mass, lunch, lectures, etc.

Creighton University Utility Date_April 2016				
	Position to Date as of Apr 2016 (inc. remaining month's budgets)	Position as of Apr FY15	Position as of Apr FY14	Notes
Steam/Chilled Water	\$5,185,816	\$6,124,817	\$6,113,193	
Electricity	\$2,641,328	\$2,589,065	\$ 2,656,347	
Water/Waste/Nat Gas	\$ 672,433	\$673,438	\$ 518,308	
	\$8,499,577	\$9,387,321	\$9,287,848	Total spend for year-over-year total spend is trending towards a reduction of \$1,000,000
	Total Full year FY16 budget	Total FY15 budget	Total FY14 budget	
Steam/Chilled Water	\$5,519,845	\$5,525,849	\$5,257,055	
Electricity	\$2,706,697	\$2,582,612	\$2,520,000	
Water/Waste/Nat Gas	\$722,885	\$627,348	\$329,900	
	\$8,949,427	\$8,735,809	\$8,106,955	Historically, well over budget hence the increase budget for FY16, but current trend is approx. \$450,000 less than budget.
	Year to date Actuals Totals FY16	Total FY15	Total FY14	
Steam/Chilled Water	\$4,276,884	\$5,205,169	\$5,277,106	
Electricity	\$1,865,608	\$1,946,831	\$1,973,347	
Water/Waste/Nat Gas	\$487,934	\$493,705	\$459,308	
	\$6,630,426	\$7,645,706	\$7,709,761	* Actual spend to date is in excess of \$1,000,000.

* Trend data is not adjusted for weather normalization or cost of fuel, but we also show BTU reductions across the board.