

Sustainability Council minutes, September 19, 2014

Attendance: ~15

- Climate Action Plan update due January 2015 to fulfil ACUPCC obligations. A small group will be working on finishing the report. Please let Mary Duda (mjduda@creighton.edu) know if you have something that should be included/highlighted. Things that need to be included:
 - Letter from the president
 - CAP Highlights/Noteworthy numbers
 - Faculty, Staff, and student engagement: short profile of their success and headshot
 - Updates to Mission and Vision
 - Sustainability in the Curriculum
 - Emission Reduction Strategies
 - Organizational Development Strategies
- The group discussed options for what we should be working on this school year
 - Since energy and transportation are the biggest pieces of our greenhouse gas emissions, these should be focused on
 - Could someone from Facilities come to talk about what is already happening, so we can work from there
 - Could we make a business case for hiring the consultant for behavior change?
 - Why is so much water being wasted in the sprinkler system?
 - We need to finish developing the manual for new faculty/staff and/or students.
 - Could we work with Human Resources to promote flextime for staff, thereby reducing our commuting emissions, as well as energy use?
 - Similar could apply to faculty, depending on the college and the needs of their faculty/students.
 - Discussion of a “green fee” for students to pay for sustainability projects. This is in place at other schools and seems to work. Similarly, other schools use the savings from energy-saving measures and put it towards other sustainability projects. Can we look into these sorts of programs?
 - The students are working on a “green certification” for events.
 - Recycling for box lunches. A member spoke to his department and asked for ideas: this department has large lunch meetings at the Skutt Student Center, typically of about 100 people. The lunches come in plastic boxes with bottled beverages. Most of the time, only trash cans are provided but no recycling bins. Could we work with Skutt and/or Sodexo staff to remedy this?
 - Students are still working on getting reusable bags for Grab-and-Go and are investigating the “Ozzi” system that is designed to provide reusable Grab-and-Go containers at colleges, universities, hospitals, etc.
 - Students are not allowed to use their own cups to get drinks at the dining halls.
- St. Francis Day Celebration: October 3
 - Mass at noon, St. John’s Church, Fr. Dick Hauser presiding

- Lunch following, Lower St. John's. Locally sourced (food from Shadowbrook Farms) including soups, bread, pickles. Sponsored by Wellness Council and Facilities Management
- Need volunteers for set-up, take-down, preparing soups, making desserts, washing dishes, moving dishes from CCSJ to LSJ. Email mjduda@creighton.edu to volunteer
- Sustainability Awards
 - Nominations due September 29; to be announced October 3. Email nominations to mjduda@creighton.edu
 - A small committee was formed to read nominations on October 1.
 - Discussion of prizes?
- Update on purchasing study with UNO
 - Study has been extended for a full year by the EPA, who is funding the research.
 - Right now it is focused on office supplies but could expand to other areas such as maintenance or cleaning supplies
- Good news shared:
 - A member that regularly shares Sustainability Council information at his department meetings has noticed that a colleague has switched from using up to 4 styrofoam cups per day to bringing his own mug from home.
 - Joe Zaborowski will be speaking about green purchasing at an e-Procurement webinar presented by the National Association of Educational Procurement on October 2 at 1 pm.
- Nebraska Statewide Arboretum visit October 3
- Collaboration with other Midwestern Jesuit universities
 - Looks to be academic only at this time.
- Need new location for spring semester – class will be in this room. Does anyone have a location that would work?

Upcoming events:

- Business, Faith and the Common Good symposium, October 3
- St. Francis Day, October 3
 - Mass at noon, Fr. Dick Hauser presiding
 - Lunch following; local food from Shadowbrook Farms.
- Visit from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum with Tree Tour and tree planting, October 3 at 11 am.
- The Heuermann Lecture Series will be the platform for the release of a UNL study of climate change in Nebraska. The lecture will be Thursday, September 25 at 3:30 pm. Margo Minnich is hosting a watch part in Criss 217.
- Big O Climate March: September 21st at Memorial Park in solidarity with the Climate Convergence.

Next meeting is October 17, 2014 in *RIGGE G05 (Physics conference room)*. NOTE DIFFERENT LOCATION.