

## Sustainability Council minutes, November 20, 2015

Attendance: recorded at 16

- Task Forces
  - Kind of vague what kind of invitation this constitutes
  - Trying to get a broad group across all colleges/staff. Who do we need to be involved, both for expertise and buy-in?
  - What is its status?
  - Use the expertise to intervene where we can. Have a voice in the community; advocacy.
  - Richard Miller to talk to president
  - Student task force
    - Original meeting to ask Fr. H for a more public stance on sustainability, also make some changes on campus
    - How can we change the campus to institute more sustainable practice
    - A little less how we'd make specific changes – more “how can we facilitate Fr. H reaching out to community”. Comes up with ideas and how to do it.
    - Create a letter, get faculty input, have president sign it. Release to Omaha World-Herald. Possibly include other institutions. Timing to coincide with Paris climate talk.
    - Want to make changes on campus, as well. Institute, coordinator.
    - Slightly different response than fac/staff
    - Various clubs are coming together for events, etc.
  - Task Force may have resources to bring in speakers or policy-directed research
- OPPD rate structure changes; public power. Allows us a voice in how our utilities are handled. Board of directors elected by stakeholders. OPPD wants to restructure how the restructure residential billing. Does not affect other categories (commercial, industrial, municipal).
  - Now: modest charge for having a hookup. Plus a charge for use. Average bill is about \$100/month.
  - Plan: Raise fixed costs (~250% to \$35 from \$10) but use charge will lower. The average bill will not change. Someone with a small usage would have a small bill and that will go up substantially. OPPD says they have high fixed costs –70% is fixed costs (plants, pensions, lines, etc). Bill doesn't represent their bill structure.
  - The part of the bill you can't do anything about goes up. Conservation will have less of an effect on your bill. Low usage: efficient, people generating their own power, poor people.
  - Progressive rate structure is a possibility.
    - Against state law? Needs to be fair reasonable and non-discriminatory distribution of costs.
    - Oppdlistens.com
  - OPPD has lost revenue this year because people didn't use as much energy for a variety of reasons.

- Electric Vehicle charging station group. About a dozen people with plug-in vehicles. Coordinating the resource as best they can. Will long-term need a policy that can grow and expand capacity. Three people have bought cars in the last month because the infrastructure is here.
  - Do users need to plug in all day?
  - May have students that live on campus with electric cars
  - In future, it would be good to have the infrastructure in place to charge people for fair use of electricity.
  - Group to figure out barriers, a future plan, present to Council possibly in January.
  - Use as education tool.
  - Have students do research on various topics.
  - Can we tie this into a more comprehensive transportation program?
    - Bikes, bus, carpool
- Sustainability Coordinator has been moved to the Research Compliance Office.
- When Bergan opens, there is going to be a lot of travel between campus and Bergan. Need to have someone that can work on these issues.
- Physicians for Social Responsibility

Upcoming events:

- Next meeting is December 18 @ 2pm in Eppley 119.