

Sustainability Council Meeting
Minutes

December 14, 2012

Members Present: 22

The minutes of the November 16, 2012, meeting minutes were acknowledged as satisfactory after having corrections made to spelling of the word degradation and completing sentence structure.

The Council had guests that attended to discuss the possibility of Creighton participating in the Omaha, B-cycle Program. Some key points:

- The program is endorsed in Omaha by Blue Cross Blue Shield.
- Blue Cross Blue Shield has funded the startup of the program.
- B-cycle stations exist at a few locations in Omaha. Two stations can be found at UNO.
- The audience saw a video about B-cycle in Denver. It is one of the B-cycle premier cities.
- Each station will cost \$38,500. It is thought that perhaps 3 stations could be located on the campus.
- The initial purchase of a station is the only Creighton expense. Operating costs are funded through bike rental.
- B-cycle is designed for destination riding/commuting. B-cycles are not constructed for recreational riding nor is the rental fee favorable to long term rental.
- Each B-cycle station will be outfitted with 5 bikes and can park 7 bikes. Bikes rented need to be checked back at a B-cycle station but not at the station that the bike was checked out.
- Bike rental from b-cycle stations on Creighton campus would not generate an income stream for Creighton.

The Council was intrigued by the B-cycle concept. Several questions were raised. It was agreed that further conversation was needed. Creighton should look for a financial partner to help underwrite the cost of a B-cycle station.

Mary Duda and Pete Maas spoke about the recycle program. It was noted that the University is preparing to be in the RecycleMania! contest again this year. Also, the Council was informed on the status of the Pepsi involvement pending for the schools recycle program but neither Mary nor Pete could give a schedule about when the Pepsi recycle containers would be delivered.

Fran Reida speculated that the federal government was more focused on the consequences of the fiscal cliff and not on the environment. More regulation clarity is expected in 2013.

Joe Zaborowski and Ed DuPree spoke about Creighton's new procurement tool, CU Buy Plus, impact on sustainability:

- a) The procurement process is paperless.

- b) Businesses and companies selling to Creighton must address sustainability as part of their application. Ed commended that Payless is quite involved with sustainability.
- c) Ed said that he is working on software that will block Creighton buyers from procuring products that are not “green”.

Mary Duda explained a new social media tool being rolled out by the University. The communication tool is designed to engage Creighton affiliates in feedback on specific questions. Mary said that she was one of a few working with Wayne Young, Jr. on the roll-out. She asked for questions relative sustainability that might be a good way to get into the beta testing.

Jay Leighter told the Council that the Green Jays will be restructuring to enhance continuity from school year to school year. The Green Jays are wanting to do more to promote sustainability and having school year to school years continuity will help the efforts. He also talked about having a paid intern position within Green Jays to help as a sustainability liaison for activities on campus.

The progress of work on the Climate Action Plan was discussed. Included in the conversation:

- Brendle Group will help with other promotional actives –
 - a) Help develop a newsletter template.
 - b) Develop a primer for new students to provide incoming students information about the plan during orientation.
 - c) Provide guidance to the Sustainability Council on specific action items and next steps for implementing the Climate Action Plan.
- Brendle Group is still incorporating notes from the past visits into the draft plan. It is anticipated that a 90% draft of the plan will be available for review in mid-January.
- The final plan needs to be submitted in early May, 2013. The time extension for submitting the completed plan was granted.
- In conversation with the Brendle Group it was decided that Creighton University Retreat Center in Griswold, Iowa could be added to the plan if enough information about the energy use could be identified to inform the greenhouse gas analysis. Brendle Group informed us that the Retreat Center would not have a significant favorable impact on the climate action plan unless the property experienced a re-forestation project.

Lennis Pederson told the Council that the planners working on the Strategic Plan were actively looking for language to incorporate sustainability into the Strategic Plan. The committees were working on Goal One: Form graduates in the Jesuit tradition with an understanding of self and their place in this diverse world. Also through the efforts on Eileen Burke-Sullivan, the sustainability activities are being considered in tasks. Dr. Burke-Sullivan will also work with those involved in the academic goals and tasks.

Lennis Pederson invited members of the Sustainability Council to a forum on January 23, 2013, to discuss energy conservation.

Mary Duda told the group that Earth Day would be celebrated on April 17, 2013, to coincide with an all campus prayer time with Fr. Lannon leading prayers.

Mary Duda spoke about Green Bag lunches. The students involved are inquiring about sustainability activities or workshops that can occur at the lunches. An example would be to build rain barrels.

The Council was informed that explanatory signage on the alternative energy sites was acceptable by both Creighton University marketing and OPPD. Signage can now be designed and installed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Please note new location - next meeting will be January 18, 2013 at 2:00 pm in the Harper Center room 3027.