

Ursinus College Sustainability Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014

Start: 2:30pm, End: 3:35pm

Present: Shannon Spencer, Brandon Hoover, Jon Brighton, Paula Alvarez, Chris Rogers, Kate Campbell, Leah Joseph, Hannah Marshall, Dana Matassino, Val Nelson, Debbie Nolan, Michele Poruban, Sylvia Schelly, Mike Shelton, Suzanne Sparrow, Colleen Valerio, Janelle Benner, Michael Ramberg, James Shuttlesworth, Ray Peppel

Business

Shannon Spencer opens floor for self-nominations for Secretary position; Chris Rogers self-nominates. A vote is taken, all present vote in favor; none oppose the motion. Chris Rogers is elected Secretary (note taker for meetings).

Subcommittees:

If anyone wants to join a subcommittee, please contact respective Chairperson.

Tree Care: (Shannon Spencer, chair): met once, in January 2014; will look into Tree Campus USA efforts. Have a committee meeting scheduled for 10/29/14 at 8:30 a.m.

Sustainable Student Experience (SSE) (Brandon Hoover, chair): has not yet met; deals with the more cultural aspect of sustainability on campus (Res. Life, Student Activities, UCARE)

Energy Conservation: (Jon Brighton, chair) members have been recruited, looking at various Departments; Andy Feick nominated; waiting on Ron Wood from Dining Services; Kim Taylor was asked about Student Life/Campus Safety; Pete & Alex (head deputy) from Campus Safety had early involvement; Hannah Marshall is Energy Fellow/student who may join this subcommittee.

Sustainable Facilities: (Andy Feick, chair)

Office of Sustainability Update

The Sustainability theme for current academic year is “Collaborations”; encouraging interdepartmental collaboration on campus.

Sustainability Week (9/29/14 – 10/05/14)

This is our annual fall celebration of sustainability on campus (it is comparable to Earth Week in the spring semester). The purpose of Sustainability Week is to engage and educate the campus community about sustainability on campus. Notable events during Sustainability Week include:

Myrin display case showcases information on Sustainability Week.
Sustainability Fair in Olin
Community Bike Ride
Local Meal in Wismer Dining Hall
Water conservation messaging in academic building bathrooms
Waste-watching in Lower Wismer – a program designed to educate students about what products are compostable vs. recyclable vs. trash.
Fall Harvest Festival at the Organic Farm
Rollout of our Green Living Certification (we have had more people fill in the certification this year in one week (150) than the entire two month period it was open last year.
Green roof replanting on the Berman Museum addition
Recycling: Ray Korenkiewicz in Facilities has been working to change the lid covers for the outdoor recycling bins on campus. The new lids are all blue with clear messaging. This is part of our on-going effort to enact more consistent messaging for recycling, specifically correlating the color blue with recycling.

Energy Awareness Month

October is the EPA's Energy Awareness Month; Shannon emphasizes importance of energy awareness because of Ursinus' signing the ACUPCC agreement.

Brandon Hoover handed out graph showing energy consumption trends of various buildings across campus; noted that we expect and want to see more of a downward trend on graph during nighttime hours; pointed out phantom energy loads and wasteful usage of energy as an issue to work on.

Ursinus' energy budget in 2013 was \$1.4 million. Brandon emphasizes the financial significance of addressing energy usage.

Green Living Certification

Green Living Certification rolled out on 9/29/14. A student Sustainability Fellow is involved in program. Last year, 140 students took the Green Living Certification. In first 24 hours of program this year, 65+ students enrolled! In first week: 150 enrolled.

There are four levels of certification (in increasing order of standards): Sun Bear, Black Bear, Giant Panda, and Grizzly Bear (highest level of certification).

Shannon introduced idea of **Green Office Certification** program inspired by Green Living Certification model, handing out two documents, "Ursinus – Green Office Guidelines" and "Draft Green Office Certification."

Group Activity

Committee then broke into three tables for group activity to discuss the possibility of instituting a Green Office Certification here at Ursinus. Objective was to discuss and identify what sustainable practices, as part of a Green Certification Program, offices currently engage in, as well as currently do not engage in, but possibly could adopt.

Group Activity Results:

Table 1 (Colleen Valerio, representative): This group discussed:
Reusable water bottles and water bottle filler in residence halls,
Turning off computers/electronics when not in use,
Designating a tray in printers for scrap paper printing.

Table 2 (Brandon Hoover, representative): This group discussed:
Emphasized that after identifying what is NOT being done sustainably, solutions/alternatives must be provided.
The fact that some items on the checklist are not in the control of individuals, so it is important to have the certification not penalize those individuals based on things that are out of their control.
Individuals should be able to focus on the things that are in their control, and report progress on these items to the Office of Sustainability to get certification.

Table 3 (Chris Rogers, representative): This group discussed:
benefits of having an integrated system for seeing academic records, to reduce printing and internal mailing of documents.
that air conditioning in some buildings is unnecessarily cold and that it can be addressed by calling facilities and having them turn off blowers in certain sections of buildings,
sections of Myrin have lighting that never power down and have no motion sensors. (it was later noted that these lights are found in areas of the library that have not yet been renovated).
the coming Student Information System (SIS) that is replacing Blackboard (currently in bid process), this integrated system will help reduce/stop document printing.
audits on lights and powering down electronics;
providing power switches.
Idea of having “Green Captains” for offices/buildings based on model of Floor Captains for fire escape routes/emergency planning. Possibly the same person, though not necessarily.
Green Certification computer programming (in Qualtrix) can be set so there are ways to request information on specific sustainability services, and appropriate contact information for such services.
Fun contest involving Student Affairs – Who is more sustainable?
Students vs. Faculty. Faculty need to be held accountable to students.

Sustainability Awards, possibly at Staff/Faculty picnic in the beginning of the academic year, or at the end of the academic year for incentivizing purposes.
Possible collaboration with UImagine.

Next Steps

CSAP Update is due in January 2015.

Next Committee meeting will probably be held in late October or early November.

Meeting adjourned @ 3:35pm.