

## Sustainability Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 9, 2008 (3:00 to 5:00 pm)  
Facilities Conference Room (Lab II 1250)

### Attending:

John Pumilio, Sharon Goodman, Matt Griffin, Scott Morgan, Paul Smith, Nancy Parkes

### Discussion:

Matt Griffin was welcomed in his role as student representative to the Sustainability Council.

Early discussion centered on how we disperse information about the council activities to the college at large and workgroup members? A quick consensus was reached on sending Council emails and announcements to all sustainability workgroup members. Council minutes are also being posted on the Sustainability web pages. Council members also saw a need to better promote the website and accomplishments/information from the workgroups, as well as to crosslink the Sustainability pages with the RAD pages in particular.

John spoke briefly about a workshop he had attended last week on effecting changes in social norms. Since much of Sustainability practice involves changing habits, he found the workshop to be very valuable. The focus was upon peer to peer changes, creating new social norms for sustainability, and creating collective action from individual action. A few lessons he brought back were:

- Just putting out a lot of information doesn't lead to changes in habits or behavior.
- "Savings" doesn't resonate with people as well as "waste" does.
- The "when in Rome..." effect; people will mostly conform to group behavior.
- Connect with people, educate them then *follow up*.

He noted that the college has an identity based upon the concepts and actions of sustainability, this can be used to help teach sustainability to new members of the campus community.

*"Sustainability is everybody's work."* - Sharon Goodman

The status of the AASHE Conference summary report was questioned. It should be finished soon.

Paul Smith noted that the Resource Conservation Manager grant has been signed. Rich Davis will be assuming those responsibilities soon, once he finishes on-going projects. Facilities is also looking at thermostat settings as a response to budget cuts.

General discussion, with no specific recommendations, covered our vision of sustainability, evaluation criteria for sustainability projects, and how to measure and quantify effects of changes brought about by sustainability measures.

We covered a brief overview of the history, goals, and parameters of Sustainability council (see attached 00-Sustainability Council Brief). The council has met its startup goals and defined roles and parameters. What now?

John suggested that the council could be taking responsibility for selecting and supporting projects.

Nancy suggested that the council take leadership; help the college be a leader in maintaining sustainability through the shock/trance cycle the country is entering. There is a long term advantage to early leadership. We need to get more exposure in CPJ.

Sharon suggested that the council could recommend action plans along with educational events.

Action Steps:

Nancy suggested developing Sustainability Awards for students, faculty, and staff, originating from the council. The members in attendance agreed unanimously. She has volunteered to draft an award description, selection criteria and process for presentation to the council in January.