

Sustainability Council – Meeting Summary

Thursday, September 25, 2008 (3:00pm-4:00pm)

Facilities Conference Room (Lab II 1250)

Attendees: Rob Cole, Rich Davis, Karen Gaul, Sharon Goodman, Kathleen Haskett, John McLain, Nancy Parkes, John Pumilio, Martha Rosemeyer, Paul Smith, Todd Sprague, Ken Tabbutt, Steve Trotter.

Purpose:

The purpose for today's meeting was twofold:

1. launch working groups
2. think strategically about planning for a sustainable future

Discussion: There was no formal record keeping of the meeting. The following is a brief synopsis recalled after the meeting:

- We are all part of the Office of Sustainability. The Office includes:
 - **The Sustainability Council:** The Council's primary lens is social justice with a focus on policies, practices, academic planning, the student experience, and providing service to the South Sound Community.
(<http://www.evergreen.edu/sustainability/sustainabilitycouncil.htm>)
 - **Five Sustainability Work Groups:**
 1. The Clean Energy Systems
 2. The Sustainable Food Practices
 3. The Alternative Transportation
 4. The Waste Reduction and Sustainable Purchasing
 5. Communications and Fundraising

Each work group is made up of faculty, staff, and students and will engage the community on their specific topical area.
 - **The Director of Sustainability:** will help bridge academics and the student experience with operations and community service in a broad cooperative effort.
(<http://www.evergreen.edu/sustainability/director/home.htm>)
 - **Interns and Graduate Fellows**
- **Hiring the Office of Sustainability Coordinator.** We need a small team to assist in the decision process. Application deadline is Oct 13. Interviews will be scheduled during week 4 (Oct 20-24). **Paul Smith, John Pumilio, and Nancy Parkes** will be part of the hiring team.
- **Venn Diagram (below) will be the model the Office of Sustainability will use to help prioritize and base decisions.**

Outcomes:

- Co-chairs will reach out to the members of their working groups (members are listed below) and schedule their first meeting. Each working group should have a core group of individuals who invite ad-hoc members as necessary.
- The Sustainability Council and each Working Group will begin their first meeting by exploring Evergreen's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (S.W.O.T. List) as they relate to sustainability. We should spend about 15 minutes on each of the four categories. This exercise should not only consider Evergreen as an institution but also our current structure and approach to sustainability as an office. The results of this exercise will help define our current situation, raise self-awareness, and help in our quarterly and long-term planning. Being candid should be encouraged, of course.
- The last hour of the first meeting should be spent reviewing the work for this quarter and beyond. See hand out attached to this email entitled "Planning for a Sustainable Future."

Working Group Members:

- Clean Energy Systems:
 - Rob Cole (co-chair)
 - Rich Davis (co-chair)
 - Mike Drennon
 - Tyrus Smith (faculty)
 - Rob Knapp (faculty)
 - Clean Energy Committee Member (Jeremy Epstein?)
 - Graduate Fellow Coordinator (funded from PSE grant)
 - Resource Conservation Manager (funded from PSE grant)
- Sustainable Food Practices:
 - Sharon Goodman (co-chair)
 - Martha Rosemeyer (co-chair)
 - Halli Winstead
 - Natalie Pyrooz (?)
 - Jake Mixon (Geoduck Union Representative)
 - Flaming Eggplant Representative (currently Dan?)
- Alternative Transportation:
 - Steve Trotter (co-chair)
 - Karen Gaul (co-chair)
 - Susie Seip
 - Victor Sanders (Coordinator, CTR Transportation Coordinator and Geoduck Union Rep)
 - Sherry Parsons
- Waste Reduction and Sustainable Purchasing:
 - Kathleen Haskett (chair)
 - Steve Scheuerell
 - Mark Kormondy
 - Aaron Powell (?)
 - Student Representative
 - Coordinator (?)
- Communications and Fundraising:
 - Nancy Parkes (chair)
 - Todd Sprague
 - Rick Reichert
 - Jason Wettstein
 - John McLain
 - Student Representative (?)

Tasks:

- **John McLain:** emails C-CAM fundraising paper for review.
- **Co-chairs:** email group with “*Planning for a Sustainable Future*” paper partially completed and request to read or review *Interim Report* (<http://www.evergreen.edu/sustainability/interimreport.htm>).

Scheduling:

- The Office of Sustainability meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month from 3-5pm in the Facilities Conference Room.
- Co-chairs (or a designated person) from each working group should plan on attending the 4th Tuesday meeting from 3-4pm

- Meeting schedules for each working group will be coordinated by the (co)chairs and student coordinators.

Next Meeting:

- **Sustainability Council: October 14, 2008 from 3-5pm in the Facilities Conference Room**
- **Working Groups: up to co-chairs to schedule**
- **Joint Council with Co-chairs: October 28, from 3-4pm in the Facilities Conference Room**

- **Working Group Criteria**. The Office of Sustainability will consider these criteria when planning for a sustainable future:
 - Whole systems thinking: cradle-to-grave or cradle-to-cradle analysis.
 - Financial implications/impacts: return on investment, payback periods, social inequities, fundraising opportunities, budget cycles and realities, etc.
 - Academic planning and curricular development: encouraging academic involvement is critical in meeting the college's educational mission and in advancing the practice of sustainability.
 - Social benefits: decision-making should be framed from a social justice and equity perspective.
 - Communications: storytelling and effective information sharing.
 - Employee education and curricular implications
 - College community outreach: be inclusive; invite campus-wide perspectives and feedback.
 - Greenhouse gas emissions: factor in carbon emissions during the decision-making and communication/education process.
 - Ease of implementation (low-hanging fruit): go for early successes and consider human resource and financial investments when priority setting.
 - Connect to existing infrastructure: collaborate with others working on similar agendas/initiatives (i.e. student groups, DTF's, academic programs, committees, etc.)
 - Foster community connections and partnerships.
 - Establish sustainability indicators and baseline data.

