

SACRAMENTO STATE UNIVERSITY
Sustainability Committee Meeting Summary
Friday, February 13, 2009
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Sequoia Hall 318

Committee Members Present: Claudia Bridges, Mike Christensen (Co-Chair), Carolyn Gibbs, Linda Hafar, Bob Hitomi, Nat Martin, Virginia Matzek, Hunter Merritt, Daryn Ockey, Kirt Stout, Victor Takahashi, Walter Wallace

1. First item of business: Review of December 12, 2008 Meeting Summary. Moved to approve by Virginia Matzek. Seconded by Claudia Bridges. Unanimously approved.
2. Second item of business: ASI sustainability activities reported by Hunter Merritt who brought carpenter pencils with a company sustainable logo printed on them. He passed around a handout from Kathryn Kay regarding student objectives which included: A) water refill stations at every drinking fountain; perhaps post a sign that reads "Save Money and Refill for Free!" (Last year ASI gave out water bottles.) This is a Facilities issue and can be added to the list of recommendations to the President.

***Action Item: Facilities Services will present cost estimate to retro-fit water fountains (one per building).** Includes checking to see if the fountains already have the connection—Mr. Merritt recommended checking new buildings and future buildings to make sure they are installed with the correct connection. B) Students want more biker-friendly pathways through campus; C) Earth Day—there will be a campus-wide collaboration off campus at the park on 5th Street. We should branch out from the more obvious usual units. Mike Christensen suggested holding our own Sac State Earth Day on campus on Wednesday of that week. Claudia Bridges suggested having a booth downtown. April 5, 2009 is "Focus the Nation" awareness campaign which is a nation-wide teach-in on climate change. Carolyn Gibbs suggested bring Earth Day ideas to next meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the bike paths. The issue should go to Public Safety—the students need to explain why and where exactly we need bike paths. Mr. Christenson reminded the Committee to be mindful of all aspects of ideas, e.g., a dirt path used by students is not necessarily a designated bike path. Ms Gibbs added that the campus Transportation Committee could make better decisions regarding this matter and they need to be aware of student needs.

***Action Item: Send letter to President Gonzalez or the Transportation Committee asking what is being done for students regarding bicycles OR invite Nancy Fox (Director, UTAPS) or Michael Schmandt (Chair of Transportation Committee) to a meeting.**

3. Third item of business: Energy & Recycling Activities: Nat Martin said Sun Edison contract for PV panels was signed in January. Phase I includes the Library and Parking Structure I; Phase II includes Student Housing and Recreation & Wellness Center. Capistrano, Lassen, and Sacramento Halls were evaluated but were found to be unsuitable sites due to too much shading (would require tree removal). Preliminary plans are underway for Library II and PS II & III. The next step will be for Sun Edison to render drawings. SMUD, PG&E, and Davis Electric Cars had displays at the Energy Conservation event. Davis brought affordable scooters and showed students how to save money on utility bills. There was a lot of student participation. Sun Edison brought their educational van to teach about solar panels. We received our final HOK review and are currently in the process of submitting comments in response.

Daryn Ockey reporting for Integrated Waste stated that 50 pairs of recycle/garbage bins will arrive in 2 ½ months. The Sac State logo will be on the trash side and the other will sport the recycle symbol. They will be distributed to various areas around campus. The Committee is trying to get “Earth Day” back on campus. Facilities Services is currently recruiting for a new manager for Integrated Waste & Moving Services. He also reported that student move-out day diverted a lot of waste but the event will be bigger in May. We are collecting industrial plastics; however, no one wants to buy them right now (5-gallon buckets are recycled by the city). Claudia Bridges asked about putting recycle bins in classrooms. Mr. Ockey responded with the fact that it is too difficult regarding manpower—right now recycling is in central locations. Carolyn Gibbs asked if people are using the blue recycle bins and how were they marketed? Mr. Ockey explained that Kathleen Reynolds quickly (before her departure) informed buildings of blue recycle bins and mini-bins on the side of their garbage cans. Virginia Matzek suggested having Ginny Stark (digital video instructor) in the video lab make a YouTube-type video competition for students to encourage people to use the bins, especially the mini-bin. Linda Hafar committed some conservation trust funds as prizes.

*Action Item: Virginia Matzek will contact Ginny Stark regarding student video assignment for providing new bins—outdoor, recycle co-mingle, and mini.

4. Fourth item of business: A joint letter was sent to Janet Hecsh on the G.E. Review Committee. Three universities have been chosen to receive grants by the AACU. There are new learning outcomes about more responsibility, service learning, community-based learning, sustainability and livability (LEAP Program). We have received \$25,000 for a 3-year study—funded through faculty development committee. Kimo Ah Yun, Director for Center for Teaching and Learning, is looking to put something together for the summer program. A taskforce for sustainability in the curriculum was passed into the Faculty Senate on February 19, 2009. The Executive Committee was unaware of “sustainability.” Virginia Matzek met with Greg Wheeler (Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies, Academic Affairs) to discuss. Since this is a “consent item” and will hopefully be endorsed, there will probably be no discussion.
5. Fifth item of business: Virginia Matzek urged the Committee’s use of the new digital highway sign to let the community know what the campus is doing for sustainability. Linda Hafar asked HOK to come up with an architectural/sustainability slogan for campus that can also be used for that sign. There should be an icon and no more than seven words. Daryn Ockey said that the sub-committee is working on the sign slogan, as well.

*Action Item: Claudia Bridges will check other campuses to see what their taglines/slogans are by the next meeting.

*Action Item: Linda Hafar and Carolyn Gibbs will come up with our tagline/slogan.

*Action Item: Carolyn Gibbs and Georgina Stevenson will design an icon.

6. Sixth item of business: Strategic priorities—Mike Christensen admonished Committee to become familiar with “ecology” web pages and ask how we can make ourselves more visible to campus and off campus. (e.g. STARZ report). Currently our web page that lists “Campus Ecology” is inaccurate.

*Action Item: “Sustainability” needs a link on the main web page. (We have formally presented this request to President Gonzalez but have not yet received a go-ahead.

Walter Wallace explained that what we need is a proper search bar to “Sustainability”—it needs to be put in HTML.

*Action Item: Update the metadata link. Mike Christensen will speak to Ryan Chin regarding the Sac State main web page.

By summer, it is the Committee's intention to put together a "sustainometer" (to monitor sustainable activities). Claudia Bridges will watchdog it to see what others are saying about us. Mr. Christensen is formalizing the 2007 Sustainability Report. At the next meeting, begin with the 2008 report. Carolyn Gibbs suggested removing Sustainability web site removed from Facilities Services to its own web page. Ms. Hafar reminded the Committee that VP Stephen Garcia originally wanted it under Facilities Services. Mr. Christensen motioned that Sac State's web page be designed to reflect our web page more representative of the community. Virginia Matzek seconded. Motion passed and carried.

7. Meeting adjourned.

This summary is a compilation of the notes taken by Thamsyne Brown.