

Approved

Sustainability Committee Meeting Summary

Friday, July 10, 2009

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Sequoia Hall 318

Committee Members Present: Mike Christensen (Co-Chair), Ron Richardson (Co-Chair), Claudia Bridges, Carolyn Gibbs, Jill Gellerman (representing Ruedi Egger), Linda Hafar, Bob Hitomi, Mike Riordan, Georgina Stevenson, Victor Takahashi, Kirt Stout

Guests Present: Freddie Orozco, Noel Carolipio

Please note: This Summary follows the order of the Agenda which was not the same order the items were discussed.

1. Approval of June Meeting Summaries (All)
 - A. Motion to approve by Ron Richardson. Seconded by Georgina Stevenson. Unanimously approved.
2. Strategic Priority 3, 4, 5: Identify actions that campus community members and/or organizations can or should take to achieve the intent of Priority 3, 4, 5 (All).
 - A. Priority 3 – Develop a creative and vibrant learning community derived from the actions within and outside of the classroom.
 - 1) M. Christensen indicated that he has spoken with Phil Garcia regarding his assistance in identifying an appropriate community Liaison. Public Affairs have been approached regarding appointing a member of their staff as a participant on the Committee. Public Affairs talents are essential to assisting the committee in reaching out to campus and broader community. Hiring a Sustainability Coordinator is still a budget issue.
 - 2) Grant opportunities were discussed. It was agreed that tracking and/or applying for grants is a major undertaking and may be beyond the scope of the committee. It was suggested that we solicit UEI's assistance in developing an approach for identifying grant opportunities for sustainability. Regarding the suggestion, it was mentioned that UEI generally prefers that faculty and staff identify specific grant opportunities and then ask for UEI assistance. Carolyn mentioned that CCE obtained a \$250,000 grant related to sustainability education program and that we may want to talk with them to identify how they identified and obtained the grant(s). It was suggested that perhaps one of the responsibilities of a Sustainability Coordinator could be to identify and assist in applying for grants. Linda Hafar indicated that she is working with SMUD on funding opportunity announcements.

ACTION ITEM: Talk to CCE regarding the grant they obtained. Talk to UEI regarding identifying, applying for, and managing grants.

3) Other comments related to grants:

- a. What kind of grants are we going after and is it a function of this committee to seek grants? We should identify what our focus and goal is.
- b. Grants should be at the bottom of the committee's list – not the top. This committee shouldn't be directly involved in identifying or obtaining grants but making faculty and staff aware that grant opportunities are available and they should be identifying these opportunities.
- c. The committee should encourage the campus community to identify sustainability related grants that would fund sustainability efforts.

B. Priority 4 – Insure that all sustainable practices are visible to faculty, staff, students, visitors and the outside community.

- 1) Victor Takahashi is doing two-hour information sessions to University Union staff at “the Well” to inform them of the sustainably features that have been incorporated into the building. He's providing an educational opportunity and giving information on Sustainability and the LEED process.
- 2) Claudia Bridges attended a workshop, similar to a “Train the Trainer” class, in San Diego. The workshop proposed ways to communicate sustainability to Faculty and Staff, and also provided ideas on how campuses might go about developing sustainability workshops. It was noted that a task force for Sustainability in Curriculum had been created and will likely address the development of sustainability workshops.

Online training sessions were discussed. Some comments:

- 3) The committee discussed the possibility and feasibility of creating a basic web based training (WBT) presentation designed to introduce the campus community to concepts of sustainability and the university's efforts towards creating a sustainable environment.

ACTION ITEM: Work on content of video.

- 4) The purpose of the committee is to assist the campus community in coming up with their own ideas, goals, and objects for promoting and implementing sustainability. To this end, the committee's efforts must focus on ways that promote participation and the methods and means for tracking participation and progress.

C. Priority 5 – Identify, develop, and encourage interdisciplinary and cross-divisional adoption of sustainable practices on campus with the greatest potential of strengthening our role as a partner in sustainability in the community.

- 1) We stopped here and Mike encouraged the committee to review Priority 5 and consider goals and objectives for the next meeting.

3. General Updates (Committee Members)

- A. The committee discussed progress on action items. Progress was noted as follows:
- 1) Public Affairs have been contacted regarding assigning a member of their staff to participate on the committee, but have yet to officially appoint a representative.
 - 2) President Gonzalez has approved a link from the campus main web page to the sustainability web page.
 - 3) Due to staff resource challenges, programming and design work on the Sustain-O-Meter has been temporarily delayed.
 - 4) The sustainability web page has been updated. The link to the new page is www.csus.edu/aba/green.
- B. Tour Trail - Victor said they met as a group and had several ideas put forward. They want to make it a class project and will put together design parameters.
- C. Digital Sign - Per Linda Hafar, Daryn talked to Public Affairs about the Digital Sign. They have an ad worked out and will send him a draft. They are waiting till the fall semester for the decision to put it on the board.
- D. Water Fountains – Only a select number of fountains will be retrofitted so people can fill water bottles. Georgina suggested putting signage at the retrofitted fountains to give people information such as “Water Bottle Refilling Station Located Here”. It was noted that municipal water standards are often more stringent than bottle water standards, making municipal water both a healthier and financially superior choice to bottled water.
- E. Watch dog - per Claudia Bridges most schools have taglines such as Drexel Green and Chico State. We should consider an appropriate sustainability tag line for Sac State. The Sustainability Report Card of the 300 universities includes participants based on the size of school endowments. As a result, SLO is the only CSU listed. HOK made a big deal about Sac State on their publication. The Green Building Research Center referenced Sac State’s AIRC flooring. And the Sacramento Business Journal has a lot of buzz on the College of Continuing Education’s Green courses.
- F. Logo for Sac State was discussed and everyone agreed that “Green Looks Good on Us” is the best choice. (**NOTE- this slogan was developed in the Recycling Committee by Mike Riordan but Daryn Ockey said we could use it.*)

ACTION ITEM: Mike will confirm with Public Affairs the appropriateness of using the slogan, and will check with legal council to see if it’s a trademarked slogan.

4. UTAPS – Update on Sustainable Efforts

Presentation by: Freddie Orozco, Assistant to the Director and Noel Carolipio, Coordinator of Appeals & Employees Transportation Coordinator.

Hornet Express Shuttle Rides – UTAPS has purchased CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) fleet vehicles to replace diesel vehicles which have completed their service life. All UTAPS buses are now CNG. They are refueled at PG&E or Davis.

- A. Fuel type discussion: What is the cost impact? Freddie didn't have the data with him but could give us the numbers at the next meeting.
- 1) [CNG combustion](#) is cleaner but the bi-product is carbon dioxide.
 - 2) With diesel fuel you get more energy output for less fuel consumption.
 - 3) Ethanol is clean burning fuel with minimal emissions. However, using corn-based fuels has been linked to higher food costs worldwide and the destruction of rain forests to create "Ethanol" farms.

There are new routes for the Hornet Express Shuttle starting in fall. A Light Rail line (called the Hornet Line) was added that will go around campus clockwise and service Napa Hall and University Office Park. Informal surveys to Faculty/Staff/Student said they would use Light Rail if a shuttle operated to campus. They'll continue to monitor rail ridership.

B. Discussion related to driving/parking:

- 1) How are we monitoring carpooling and use of Hornet Shuttle? Per Freddie, we monitor car permits and where people get on/off the shuttle.
- 2) Is there attention paid to servicing the staff? Freddie said he'd need to look into it. The Green & Gold route, (Cal Expo/ La Rivera) run every 40 min. The schedule is based on the students. He can't answer servicing the staff without research. The Hornet leaves 6 minutes after the arrival of the Light Rail.
- 3) UTAPS has focused on light rail, bus, and carpooling but what about other modes of alternative transportation, such as bikes? There's no incentive to encourage walking and bicycling. The campus does not incentivize cycling to work. It was suggested that the campus should consider developing additional bike paths and provide more bike racks.
- 4) Per Freddie, UTAPS is willing to provide additional bike racks as determined necessary.
- 5) It was suggested that if the University/UTAPS were to provide an incentive for riding bikes, more students and employees might drive less reducing the demand on limited auto parking. It was mentioned that UTAPS is self-funded. As such, promoting the use of alternative forms of transportation that reduce the number of parking permits purchased, may adversely affect UTAPS funding. Sac State/UTAPS may need to review their funding structure to address the inevitable reduction in parking permits purchased that would result from an abundant use of alternative forms of transportation.

C. General Discussion/updates:

- 1) Linda informed the committee that Sac State is documenting carbon emissions and eventually the university may be required to implement strategies that will reduce the number of emission producing vehicles traveling to and from the campus. Linda also

mentioned that Sac State is obtaining grant funding that will allow us to purchase EV fleet cars/minivans. These vehicles will potentially be made available to the campus community for conducting university business.

ACTION ITEM: - Freddie will talk to Mario. They're looking for a good application for the EV cars.

- 2) On one of the days during Bike Commute Month, as an incentive, university students and employees who ride their bike to work will be eligible to receive a coupon for a free pizza. This successful program has been in place for the past few years.
 - 3) The concern was raised that some people may not know what paths to use to easily travel to the campus by bike. Perhaps some information could be developed for cyclists informing them of reasonable transportation routes to campus.
5. August SC Meeting?
 - A. Mike won't be here in August so either Ron can run the meeting or we'll meet in September. (*An email sent after this meeting stated the August Meeting is cancelled*).
 6. Meeting Adjourned at 11:10