

Advisory Council on Sustainability notes; September 15th, 2010

Present: Tom Schellhardt, Jan Hanish, Jim Walters, Gloria Gibson, Emma Hassman, Eric O'Brien, Joel Haack, Rebecca Schultze

- The meeting began at 11:00. Tom thanked Jan for taking minutes at previous meetings.
- Minutes for both May 6th, 2010 and August 25, 2010 were approved with one minor date change from 3011 → 2011.
- Jim offered a brief review of the committee's recent work and Eric's activities over the past month.
- Tom updated the Council on the proposed retreat. He suggested coordination continue to find the best date and would like to get it scheduled ASAP. Rebecca suggested a visit with IDM/Strategic Marketing Services to see how much time they think it might take. Tom said he will call Ron Padavich to get a time together for the committee to meet for no more than 2.5 hours. Jan suggested sending out a questionnaire about the role of the committee and council before the retreat. Gloria asked about the purpose of the retreat. Tom explained it as an opportunity to review the energy conservation committee make-up, to see how it's working, and how to address its role in relationship to the role of the Sustainability Coordinator.
- Eric gave an update on the recent graduate students hired at the CEEE to work closely with him on the university sustainability website, and the upcoming campus survey on sustainability.
- Eric talked about the upcoming American Recycling day (mid-November) and has begun work with RRTTC to facilitate a residence hall recycling competition to get students involved.
- Eric discussed how he is working with industrial tech on campus to help incorporate promotional projects for classes like "green-type logos" around campus. He was interested in finding out how we would proceed if we try to get a project like this off the ground. Rebecca suggested Eric contact university relations including Jim O'Connor or Mary Taylor for more information. Jan thinks it's a great idea but noted that these type of materials can lose their message quickly. Tom agreed with all discussion points and noted it could be a good opportunity to connect and engage the community and suggested the idea should be discussed further.
- Eric reported on the use of UNI's electric car on campus, and plans to develop more signage on the car to raise awareness. Jan suggested the slogan "I Am Green."
- Eric discussed the AASHE (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education) conference in October. He will be attending a workshop on STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System) and a campus coordinator workshop. He is working to get at least one students to attend the conference.

- Eric updated the committee on the progress with the STARS campus survey for faculty and staff at UNI. He said discussions continue among faculty to create a sustainability minor or certification for students at UNI.
- Rebecca reported that Catherine Zeman will be contacting Eric about planning Earth Week events in April 2011. Tom noted that KWWL offers a lot of publicity for Earth Week and wants to get community, faculty, and students more involved. Eric suggested real life stories would be effective and wants to have more promotion for these projects. Rebecca said that Catherine Zeman wants to have more promotion this year for keynote speakers. He also noted that April 21st the president is scheduled for a forum. This will be discussed further.
- Rebecca reported that Catherine Zeman has talked to her about getting a Ragbrai team together for next summer.
- Tom introduced a discussion about recycling. He indicated that he would like to see Facilities coordinate the operations side of recycling on campus.
- Rebecca raised the issue of the upcoming holidays and suggested they should educate students and staff about having green holiday parties. She indicated Susan Salterberg of CEEE suggested the sustainability office should take this on.
- Next meeting of the Sustainability Council is Wednesday, October 20th, 2010, in Lang 122m from 11:00a.m. to 12:00 noon.
- The meeting adjourned at 12:04pm.