

Sustainability Council meeting notes; April 8, 2009

Present: Pat, Joel, Jim W., Terry, Pernell, Jim L., Jan

- Minutes of March 12 meeting were approved.
- Campus Conversation on Sustainability was briefly discussed. Members were encouraged to register and participate. Jim L. shared an email regarding a suggestion of a certificate associated with Teacher Education. This is the type of idea that could be pursued and might be something that differentiates UNI's approach. Other similar ideas may come from the Campus Conversation. A report will be given to the Sustainability Council. There will be an expectation from the campus of a response to ideas that are put forward in that summary.
- Energy Conservation Committee Update from Jim W.:
 - Mission Statement: Energy Conservation Committee is taking another look at the mission statement they developed to be sure it is comprehensive to not only the committee, but the broader issue of sustainability.
 - Website review is underway
 - Recycling pilot project in Rider Hall has completed the benchmark data gathering. The actual recycling project will launch in the fall. Staff felt that April is not an effective time to launch a new program.
 - Panther Pick up is scheduled for April/May. This will provide opportunities to students to donate usable furniture/large items to St. Vincent DePaul – to reduce the amount that is left on the street, put in dumpsters, etc. They will be monitoring participation and quantity.
 - Wetland Demonstration Pond: activities are planned for volunteers to help with the plantings around the pond area. This will take place over several weekends in the next few months and again in the fall.
- Tom indicated the BOR sustainability plan has been approved. It will be on the website. Pat indicated they are already getting requests for information about actions taken.
- Green House Gas study is underway. Data gathering deadline is May 1 and we hope to have a report back by June.
- Tom mentioned that we still need to discuss overall campus leadership for sustainability efforts and what would be the best model for UNI. This is a topic that will be of great importance as we move forward.
- Three interns will be interviewed for the coop internship for Sustainability.
- Tom posed the question about unique programs or approaches that UNI has (or might have) as a means of distinguishing itself in the area of sustainability. Terry mentioned that this area seems to be poised for some support of wind technology – and this would be a highly visible way to demonstrate efforts. Jim asked if solar is under consideration. Tom mentioned that south campus may seem to be a good area for these technologies. Joel related that there is a very promising project underway regarding residential wind energy technology.
- The Energy Efficiency Policy draft is currently being vetted. It has not yet been approved.
- Campus scheduling policy is in process.

- Joel mentioned that a recent guest lecturer indicated that she had been offered a position at ISU but was unable to accept the position because of health concerns for a child related to coal plant particulates in that area. Joel indicated that this is a growing issue. This may be an issue in our area as well and, as noted previously, may be a factor in recruiting and hiring.
- Meeting adjourned at 12:05p