

Sustainability Council Meeting Minutes; August 25, 2010

Present: Tom Schellhardt, Bill Calhoun, Rebecca Schultze, Gloria Gibson, Emma Hashman, Jim Walters, Eric O'Brien, Terry Hogan, Joel Haack, Jan Hanish

Tom provided an overview of a meeting held with Jim Walters, Eric O'Brien, and Jan Hanish outlining the evolving role of the Energy Conservation Committee. With the establishment of the Sustainability Council and Eric's hire as the Sustainability Coordinator, this seems to be a time to review the make-up, role and scope of the Energy Conservation Committee. Jim indicated that he thought the committee would welcome this conversation as there are many people involved who are highly committed to the concept of sustainability. Jim reviewed the idea that the committee, along with the Council, engage in a strategic planning process. Tom will follow up with IDM to see if we can facilitate a "retreat" to address these questions. Gloria indicated this is especially good timing in that we should also consider items in the UNI Strategic Plan that support sustainability. Tom will get back to the Council and Jim (for committee information) when he has further information. Jim will also discuss this with the Committee at their first meeting in September.

Rebecca indicated that they are doing some reorganization in University Relations and wanted the Council to know that this may impact her role on the Council. She will keep us informed as more information becomes available.

Update from Eric: Eric indicated that he would be meeting with KWWL to highlight sustainability practices on campus and will do a walk through of various campus areas. He also reported that the AASHE STARS program (inventory on sustainability initiatives) is taking up a great deal of time. However, we will be able to review our efforts against measurements of other participating institutions so in the long run this will be very helpful. He is looking at three major areas curriculum (academics and research), campus operations, and planning. He is working on a survey relative to the curriculum information and hopes to have all this completed in time for the January 31, 2011 deadline. Eric also reported that, because of great cooperation on all sides, UNI has instituted recycling in all of the residence halls. Campus recycling efforts and coordination is moving from RRTTC to his office so he is in the process of hiring students to assist in this effort. Eric also indicated that energy efficiency projects are underway (with grant support) in 6 or 7 buildings. He also shared that one of the goals of Sierra Club will be to look at coal plants at universities. He expects that UNI will be contacted and wanted to make the Council aware of this. Finally, he reported that UNI is in the process of placing 12 solar compactors on campus. This should be completed in the near future.

Jan provided an update on the Solar Splash event that UNI is hosting in June 2011. She provided information regarding the need for UNI support as this is a national event and will require a great deal of UNI support so that it is a quality, successful event.

Emma reported that NISG will be meeting with Eric and will be looking at coordinating their efforts with him.

Joel reported that there is a new faculty member in Construction Management and he is very interested in sustainability. Eric indicated they had already met and will continue to work with him. The sustainability courses offered this semester do have a lower than anticipated enrollment so they will be monitoring them. Joel also reported that both Governor Culver and Congressman Braley had recently visited several UNI programs.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 am

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, October 20 at 11:00am in Lang 122m.