

Sustainability council notes; Thursday, January 7, 2010

Present: Tom Schellhardt, Gloria Gibson, Jake Rudy, Jim Walters, Rebecca Schultze, Joel Haack, Bill Calhoun, Terry Hogan, Jan Hanish

- Minutes of the Oct. 8, 2009 meeting were approved with one change suggested by Joel. Jan will make the change on the notes and then provide to the UNI C.A.R.E. website.
- Tom provided an update on what sustainability projects are now scheduled to be funded with remaining ARRA funds. These include WRC chiller study, energy audits for 7 buildings, water quality matching funds, sustainability coordinator, electronic locks for some academic buildings. Other projects may be funded based on remaining budget still to be determined.
- Sustainability coordinator search update: the search is underway with a close date of January 11, 2010. As of today there are 12 applicants from a wide geographic area. Tom will be working to identify office space in the CEEE. The Sustainability Council will ask to meet with potential candidates. We will need to be prepared to articulate our role in relation to the Coordinator; energy conservation committee will likely do the same.
- Update from energy conservation committee: Jim provided an update of the November meeting (no December meeting was held.) At that meeting Marty Mark had indicated that a campus computer equipment policy was close to being finished. Jim is expecting this to come out soon. UNI Online will present energy “facts” during the month of April and the Northern lowan will begin providing a “green tip” of the week. Jim asked about committee terms. When the committee was established no terms were established. Council asked him/energy committee to come up with a recommendation for how to stagger terms.
- Highlights from Green Week: Rob Conway (Director of environmental affairs/NISG) worked with students on this week of programming. Approximately 150 students participated. They intend for this to be an annual fall event and are looking at dates for next year.
- Campus Conversation on Sustainability: The president is interested in continuing a “town hall” style meeting annually. Rebecca has talked with Jack Yates and others. What is suggested for this year is that we bring in a keynote speaker (perhaps former UNI professor now in Wisconsin), give a progress update on what was generated from last year’s meeting, invite UI, ISU and state coordinators and possibly have a role for them. Jan and Rebecca will talk about a small committee to get this moving. Jake and Sarah will be involved so that we can get students more involved this year (perhaps ask Rob Conway to give an update). Jim will get a volunteer(s) from the energy committee. Jan will work with president’s office to determine possible date(s).
- Other: Tom presented info on the STARS program from AASHE which is a system for tracking and assessment in the areas of education/curriculum, operations, and planning/engagement. This will provide a rating level. Cost now is \$950 but the council decided this is an excellent benchmark tool. Tom will pursue getting us enrolled. We envision that the Coordinator will work on this tool and consult with Shashi where appropriate.
- Next meeting: Tom will re-schedule the February meeting date so it does not conflict with the energy conservation committee meeting. He will email date/location to council members.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:50am.