

Sustainability Council meeting notes; September 3, 2009

Present: Rebecca, Sara, Tom, Bill, Jake, Jan, Joel, Jim, Pat, Terry, Gloria

- Sara Stolz was introduced as the Coop intern. Sara will be working with both the Council and the Energy committee providing support for programs and communication. She is working under Rebecca's supervision.
- Minutes of the August, 2009 meeting were approved.
- Jim provided an update on the first meeting of the academic year for the Energy Conservation Committee. He indicated that they are replacing all student members. Jake Rudy will serve as co-chair (replacing Adam Bentley), Rob Conway is the Director of Environmental Affairs for NISG, Blake Argotsinger is the president of Green Project UNI. Jake is also following up with two other student members to see if they wish to continue. Sue Schuerman is no longer on the committee but Rebecca is now attending. In addition, Vicki Grimes will be retiring in Dec. but with Rebecca on the committee, this area is still represented.

The Council discussed how to approach the on going terms of the Energy Conservation Committee. It has been active for about three years. Jim will discuss with the committee how they want to handle this. There were no terms with the initial appointment but he often receives inquiries about membership.

Jim indicated the committee was excited to learn that the Coordinator position is moving forward. He discussed other possible activities. Bill inquired about Residence Hall competitions, etc. Terry indicated there is a national competition called Recycle-mania. Right now the question is what kind of tracking can we do, based on how buildings are metered. Pat inquired about a metering schedule. Tom will discuss this with Morris and forward information to the Council.

Jan will work with Jim to develop this year's operating budget for the committee, based on what was submitted for review. This will be sent on to Tom for his approval.

- Right now there are several projects that are specified for ARRA funding, but they have also been submitted for grant consideration to the Iowa Energy Council. If this grant comes through for all/part of these projects, this would free up other ARRA funding for one time use this year.
- Sustainability Coordinator position: HR is working with the Position Evaluation Committee to get the proper classification. Tom is looking for a search committee chair and membership. This will be a national search. He would like to get this going as soon as the final steps for creating the position are completed. He would like to name the committee before the next Sustainability Council meeting.
- Energy grants: Right now we have submitted a grant request to the Iowa Energy Council for light retrofitting for the library (1.42 yr payback), and Maucker (3.3 yr. payback; with \$81,000/yr savings), and for solar panels on the parking deck which will result in this being a net zero building. 990 panels will be placed on the deck and will generate enough energy to offset light and heat (of the waiting area).
- Green house gas study will be presented by consultants on Nov. 5th.
- Wind energy: consultant has been chosen

- Green House Quarterly: Neither Tom nor Rebecca have heard anything back from the publication representatives, though they have inquired.
- AASHE conference: will be attended by Carol Yates, Pat Higby, Sara Stolz and Rob Conway.
- Other conference /presentation information: 2009 Environmental Climate is Sept. 16/09 in Johnston, IA; Environment: the Interdisciplinary Challenge is Oct. 8-11/09 at UW Madison; CEEE is sponsoring Richard Heinberg lecture Sept. 23/09; Leland Wilson Lecture will feature Dr. John Warner in "Green Chemistry: Theory and Practice" on Sept. 24/09 and Iowa Environmental Council Annual Conference "2020 Vision: Creative Solutions for our Changing World is Sept. 25/09.
- Two other activities that will be important this year will be Earth Day as well as any follow up to the Campus Conversation program.
- Tom would like to develop a set of goals for the Council for this year. Bill asked if the Council will be reviewing any requests for ARRA funds that pertain to sustainability. He will follow up on this.
- UNI is working with a company to be a demonstration site for a vertical wind turbine. One meeting has been held and they are working on this. Cost is estimated at \$5000.
- Joel provided an update on some curriculum related topics. There is a major grant going forward to the Department of Energy on storage of renewable energy; there is a state wide grant with 3 Regent universities to the NSF for a \$20million/5 year grant related to renewable energy, with components on outreach and work force development. The wind energy class now has an enrollment of 17; there was a good response to the Intro to Sustainability course. And he reported that Gloria has had some conversations about a "school" of technology/sustainability that could pull together the various efforts across campus.
- Gloria: is putting together the team for the new university strategic plan. She suggested that someone from the council or involved in areas of sustainability might be a good person to be included. If you have names/recommendations, please send them to Tom. Tom will compile these and send on to Gloria.
- Rebecca: Sara has gone over the AASHE document and there are some ideas that we could implement with low/no cost. She will have Sara forward her findings to Jim for the Energy conservation committee
- Jan: will work with Jim and Tom to get an itemized budget together for this year for the Energy conservation committee, based on what was submitted last spring.