

DU Sustainability Council

Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2010 – 1864 Room, Driscoll Student Center

Members, University Representatives and Guests Present: Stefeni May, Mark Rodgers, Linda Kosten, Fred Cheever, Bruce Hutton, Rebecca Powell, Lyndsay Agans, Tiffany Hutchings, Christy Cerrone, Ethan Crawford, Tom McGee, Jon Bortles, Erin Hough, Chris MacMillan, Alex West, Beth Walker, Cheri Stanford, Brittany Wilhelm, Mandy Jameson

Next meeting: Thursday, May 20, 8:30 – 10 a.m., Room 1864, Driscoll University Center North, 2nd level

I. Call to Order Introductions - Agans

Lyndsay Agans called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Those present introduced themselves.

II. EcoMugs – Erin Hough

Erin distributed the new DU Eco Mugs in honor of Earth Day. She left early to attend to Earth Day business around campus.

III. Website and Outreach Update – Agans, Hutchings

Tiffany Hutchings said that the Outreach Committee is still taking feedback on the new website. They are also “tweeting” and have a goal of sending one tweet each day. People can sign up for the e-newsletter listserv online (Council members will be signed up automatically). The website and newsletter will focus on sustainability events at DU and Sustainability Council updates.

Outreach has also arranged for tables at events around DU, such as Animal Matters (GSSW), Daniels Sustainability Career Exp, the Law School Earth Day event and the Human Resources Benefits Fair.

Tiffany mentioned several new outreach committee members: Sherri Stanford from Alumni Relations and Kate Sherer from GSSW.

She said that the committee has been very busy with Earth Day activity.

Lyndsay Agans said that we need to deal with Council elections at the next meeting. People should step up and nominate themselves or others to serve. The terms are for two years. The Provost’s Office is collecting the applications. April 30 is the deadline but we may extend it if there aren’t enough nominations.

The Green Pioneer award nominations have a deadline of May 1, 2010.

IV. AASHE Updates – Kosten

Linda Kosten said that she, Kristi and Becky had an initial telephone conference to plan for the October 10, 2010 AASHE conference in Denver. DU is serving as master host at a cost of \$5,000. Part of our obligation is to host a campus tour. Brittany Wilhelm has volunteered to be the campus tour guide coordinator. We have to submit a description as a Livable Urban Campus to AASHE by next week. The concept is to have attendees ride light rail to campus, which allows us to address transit issues. We want to script the tour so that it can be used for other purposes. Tom McGee said he has developed a 50-minute energy tour for Earth Day, which might have parts that can be adapted. He will send it to Brittany.

Linda said that we may end up with several versions of the tour that will appeal to students, faculty and staff, and just faculty. Becky Powell said that they are in the process of updating the paper campus eco map. They should have a web-enabled version by the end of the quarter. Linda said they would pull in the Arboretum, the permaculture garden and other venues. AASHE wants their staff to visit campus ahead of the conference to drum up business. We can also publicize it at our tables. The main conference is at the Denver Convention Center.

Lyndsay said there will be a call for sessions on the website and additional information as well. She said we need to have DU participate in presenting and as volunteers.

Bruce Hutton asked if we would be covering non-green items on the tour – such as social equity and justice. Lyndsay said, yes, the theme of the conference is social justice. We will figure out how to showcase research in this area. Having faculty involved in the tour would add interest.

V. Rocky Mountain Sustainability Summit – Jon Bortles

Jon Bortles reported on the RMSS. He said we have agreed to take the lead, as Dave Newport from C.U., which has sponsored the summit for many years, wanted to share the responsibility with other universities in the region. It is a great way to put DU on the map. The theme is “Forging Meaningful Action to Regional Sustainability,” and will focus on moving from issues to action. The summit is scheduled for February 17-18, 2011. It is biennial and attracts between 200 and 800 people. We have reserved the Driscoll Ballroom. He welcomed anyone who is interested to join in the planning effort.

Christy Cerrone said about six people have attended the planning meetings. They need help with (and will form sub-committees for):

- Lodging, transportation and parking
- Risk Management, contracts and purchasing
- Program – breakout sessions and workshops
- Sponsorships
- Food
- Marking
- Registration
- Volunteer coordination
- Green amenities
- Expo for vendors
- Budget
- Fun arrangements
- Keynote speakers - attention grabbers

Jon and Christy said there are many opportunities to become involved. The next meeting will be at 10 a.m. in Room 1864, following the Sustainability Council meeting.

The budget in the past has been \$35-40,000. The registration charge has been \$125 professional/\$65 for students.

VI. Committee Reports

- A. Reduce/Reuse/recycle Committee – no report. Members are busy with Earth Day.

- B. Transportation – Mark Rodgers said this committee has not met recently. They are having a discussion with Councilman Nevitt (District 7) about a bike path along High Street. He is very supportive. DU will be involved in the planning process. Linda suggested getting someone from Transportation Solutions to be part of the committee. Tom said that there is funding to change the lighting in the Daniels and Nelson parking garages to make it more efficient. The switch should start within the next two months.
- C. Facilities and Energy Committee – Tom reported on several items. There is a proposal in front of Craig Woody to install solar in Driscoll South. It is cost neutral. Excel has committed to buying RECS. Facilities has purchased 10 lbs. of offsets for the HRTM building to make the Earth Day events there carbon-neutral.

Mark said that they are waiting for Dillon’s analysis of external recyclable containers before installation can begin. He said that he needs to document the outreach component on Nagel in order to apply for LEED Gold. He was directed to the website for this information. Becky said she might have a geography student who can help with packaging the information. Linda said that AASHE has an example from Adolphson Peterson on Ruffato Hall.

He said Tom has performed a comparison between Nagel and Nelson regarding energy usage. Nagel has savings of \$70,000 over Nelson. However, most of our new buildings are energy efficient. The same comparison can be done between Daniels and Law School. There is a high cost for LEEDS premium certification of about \$200,000 on a \$32 million building project. The criteria and city requirements are always going up.

Jon asked if we are going to retrofit any existing buildings with LEEDS-E. Mark said there was some momentum to retrofit Daniels but it is too expensive and wouldn’t save much money. Four other buildings – Law, Lacrosse, HRTM and Kappa Sig – qualify for LEEDS-Silver as they were designed. It is now a DU Board policy to build to LEEDS-Silver standards. There’s a question on how important it is to have them certified, which adds a cost.

Jon asked about custodial products. Mark said that all cleaning products are green.

Tom said that we can request Energy Star ratings on all of our buildings if we would like. He will find out the cost of doing so. We need to balance spending resources on buildings versus the education mission.

Lyndsay said we need to market our attention to green, even when it has not been certified by an external body. Mark added that we do use recyclable materials in building, such as copper and brick.

- D. Outreach – Tiffany Hutchings
Tiffany added to the report earlier in the meeting. The sustainability branding logos are done and available. DU is setting up an RSS feed.

Mark reported that Sodexo is adjusting the Pub to be a “campus market,” and is focusing on sustainability. Erin is working on it.

E. Curriculum and Research

There was no formal report. There is a committee meeting scheduled.

Linda said we should add representatives from U. College, Multicultural, and The Women's College next year. She also commented on the Sustainable Policy Management degree and partnership with Law in health care, natural resources and law.

F. Best Practices – Beck Powell

Becky reported on institutionalizing our connections around the campus. The bylaws probably need to be revised.

The committee is working the AASHE and RMSS conferences. They are setting up a reporting committee which will work on the AASHE Stars and ACUPCC reports, among others.

Lyndsay commented on the need to update the ACUPCC plan. We will need a summary of accomplishments for 2009-10. She asked that leaders on the Council get summaries to her by May 20, 2010. We also need to work on building the Sustainability Council.

Jon Bortles asked about the responsible purchasing network decision. Linda suggested that we invite Joe Benson to the Best Practices meeting to discuss. Linda also commented on the need for a purchasing website. The policy is developed and approved but waiting for the website to implement it.

Tiffany suggested advertising it as "coming soon" at the Benefit Fair. She also suggested publishing "workplace tips," what individuals can do at work and home to promote sustainability. It is sustainability at the grass roots.

Tiffany said that one remaining thorny issue is the number of paper fliers that are sent out to the community. Linda said she will bring the issue up with the HR-UTS-Payroll Group to ask for solutions. It was suggested everyone save fliers for one month and see who is sending them out. Tiffany said that the Bursar's Office is no longer mailing paper bills to students starting this summer. It should save 100,000 sheets of paper.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.