

DU Sustainability Council

Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2011 – Ruffatto Hall Room 105 Community Board Room

Members, University Representatives and Guests Present: Fred Cheever, Christy Cerrone, Rebecca Cales, Ethan Crawford, Jane Maurer, Lisken Seader, Martin Quigley, Emma Howard, Daniel Powell, Samara Rasmussen, Linda Blakely, Jacaranda Palmateer, Sharon Gabel, Julie Andersen, Cara DiEnno, Saskia Sawyer, Randy Wagner, Michael Skanlon, Brittany Wilhelm, Megan Kelly, Tom McGee, Buddy Knox, Tiffany Hutchings, Chase Squires, Megan Marshall, Lyndsay Agans, Michael Sickinger, Shelley Popke.

Next meeting: Thursday, September 15, 8:30 – 10 a.m., Driscoll Student Center room 1880

I. Call to Order and Approval of the Last Meeting’s Minutes – Fred Cheever

Fred Cheever called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting.

There was a motion by Daniel Powell, seconded by Brittany Willhelm, to approve the minutes from July 12, 2011. The motion passed unanimously.

Fred then asked for each person to introduce him or herself by name, DU affiliation and sustainability interests.

II. Update on Director of new Center for Sustainability – Fred Cheever

Fred explained that there is an offer out for the first Director for the Center for Sustainability and that the candidate is considering the offer. He said that there is space in Jmac designated for the Center, moving forward with furnishing and opening the space is on hold until firm plans are in place with the Director. Saskia Sawyer asked if there were plans to hire staff for the Center and Fred explained that for now there is no plan to add permanent full-time staff to the center, but that the University has Scott Shrage’s position which is 15-25% focused on sustainability issues. Fred said that even after the creation of the Center, we will still need to maintain our active and involved Sustainability Council to continue to work on sustainability issues on campus.

III. AASHE Gold – Fred Cheever

Fred announced that DU earned a Gold rating in the AASHE STARS rating system!!! He said that the process was a lot of work and he said thank you to the large number of people who were involved in researching and writing submissions for the report. Brittany Wilhelm wrote a special “Gold” edition of the council’s newsletter (“DU Green & Gold Pages”). The newsletter went out to the Green List. Fred reminded the group that any individuals can sign up to be on the green list. Just send an e-mail to gree-list-subscribe@du.edu

IV. When Should We Meet During the Coming Year—Fred Cheever

Fred said that in the past, meetings have been held once each month on designated Tuesday and/or Thursday mornings, 8-10:30 a.m. In order to try to find the time that would work best for this year's group, Fred handed out sheets for attendees to indicate which times WOULD work for them to attend meetings.

V. Establishment of new Social Sustainability Committee – Fred Cheever

Fred said that the Council Bylaws allow us to establish committees. We currently have 6 committees, but can add more as needed. Fred said that social sustainability is one of the three 3 components of sustainability, but is an area the council has not focused on yet. A Social Sustainability committee has been proposed. The committee would work with CME to encourage diversity, work with CCESL and community groups, and work on social justice issues on our campus. We tabled further discussion until Thomas Walker is able to attend a meeting since he has been working to draft an initial “charge” for the Social Sustainability Committee.

VI. Establishment of new Food and/or Mindful Consumption Committee—Fred Cheever

Fred said that there seems to be a great deal of interest building on campus in making local, organic, community and campus food more prominent. He said that there are AASHE points for a comprehensive green purchasing plan. Emma Howard said she has a student job working on local and organic food with Sodexo this year. *Fred Cheever made a motion to create a Food and Mindful Consumption Committee, Lisken Seader seconded, the motion carried unanimously.* Megan Kelly and Emma Howard offered to co-chair the committee together. Jacaranda Palmateer and Lisken Seader expressed interest in participating on the committee.

I. Proposed “By Law” amendment—Fred Cheever

Fred said that the by-laws currently do not provide for proxy voting. People have asked if they could send someone in their place to the meetings. Fred reviewed a proposed amendment:

In extraordinary circumstances, a Council member may vote “by proxy.” To do so, a Council member must notify the Council Chair and Council Vice Chair, in writing, that they are unable to attend a particular Council meeting and designate their representative for votes taking place at that Council meeting. If a member does not attend three or more consecutive meetings, the Council shall assume the member has relinquished her position on the Council.

Fred Cheever made a motion to accept the proposed amendment, Brittany Wilhelm seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

A. Website and Outreach – Brittany Wilhelm

Brittany said that the Outreach Committee members are presenting Sustainability Council information at the monthly “Thriving at DU” new employee orientation sessions. The committee is also presenting (or presented) information at the Staff Advisory Council picnic in July, the Sturm orientation in August, and at the Pioneer Carnival in September.

Brittany said that the committee’s three big projects to start the year will be “Furniture Sharing at DU” (formerly known as “Pete’s List”), marketing the B-Cycle program, and helping plan the fall Sustainability Mixer.

B. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – Christy Cerrone

Christy said that the composting system has been expanded to include Nelson dining, Nagel dining, Halls dining, Driscoll, and the Ritchie Center. The outdoor recycling program is also ready to roll out and the signs are going on the bins this summer.

C. Facilities – Tom McGee

Tom said that the Energy Star Certification of Jmac is in progress. The program tells about the efficiency of a building compared to other residence halls across the country. Christy Cerrone said that Housing’s goal is to work with Tom to make improvements to the residence hall efficiency so that we can certify one building each year.

Tom said that in the Ritchie Center DU received \$250,000 from a “7 fund” for energy retrofits which will reprogram and re-sequence automation in ventilation systems. These retrofits will save 1 million KWH per year, which will significantly help us in meeting our 20% reduction by 2020 goal.

Tom said that there is a lighting upgrade pilot project this fall in Jmac and Halls. Motion sensor lights will be installed, HRE will gather feedback from students, and if the systems work well we will apply across the buildings. Daniel Powell expressed interest in participating and Christy Cerrone said he could contact her for additional information on helping out.

Tom said that the Smart Grid pilot in Olin Hall is proceeding with study and analytics this summer and fall. Tom will share the report when it is submitted.

Lisken asked how to turn off the lights in buildings with “auto-on” motion sensor lights. She said she is in an office with motion sensor lights, but since she has windows, she’d like to keep the lights off. Tom said he would come to her office and take a look. Tom said that improved systems are being produced all of the time.

D. Transportation – Ethan Crawford

Ethan said they are working on B-Cycle outreach and the “sharrows” on High Street. Rebecca Cales said that Transportation Solutions provides car share and bike share support on campus. She said that they are doing a broad, all-campus survey in the fall about transportation to and from campus. Saskia invited her to come to SAC to share the information. Ethan said additional B-Cycle memberships are available at the transportation center; bring an ID, credit card, and du.edu e-mail address.

Buddy Knox shared information about the car share program coming to campus. A company has been selected and details are being ironed out, so the program will probably be on campus by the fall quarter. There will be 2 cars to start: one by the Evans parking structure, and one on High St and Jewell south of Centennial Halls. The program can grow from there; if needed, we can add more cars in the future. If you have a valid DU ID#, the \$20 signup fee is waived. Users are required to have had a valid driver's license for at least 2 years. Participants will be charged a \$30 membership registration which will apply a \$30 credit on your account for the car share. There will be an online sign-up system to reserve the car. You can take it anywhere during the time you have it checked out. The company will have an intern on campus to do publicity of the program. Fred said the Council will have a function in getting the word out too. Buddy said that the cars will be 4-door cars in "sporty colors" with a "subdued logo" (not a DU logo since it is not our car, but the company logo). They will have all-terrain tires and get good gas mileage. (No hybrid cars were selected due to the learning curve of driving a hybrid vehicle.)

E. Education and Research – Lyndsay Agans

Lyndsay said that this committee needs a new chair. We have a good list of sustainability courses, but it will be important to continue the audit. A possible future goal of the committee would be to create a grad degree in Sustainability.

F. Best Practices – Tiffany Hutchings

Tiffany said the first Best Practices Committee meeting will be scheduled in the coming weeks.

II. Next Meeting Date and Place – Fred Cheever

Fred said the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 8th, from 8:30 – 10 a.m. The location will be announced. [Note: later, the meeting was changed to Thursday, September 15th 8:30-10 a.m. in Driscoll 1880 in the hopes that more people would be able to attend the meeting once classes began.]

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10 a.m.