

## DU Sustainability Council

### Meeting Minutes

**June 14, 2011 – DuPont Room, Mary Reed Building**

**Members, University Representatives and Guests Present:** Kristin Altman, Ethan Crawford, Mollie Doerner, Sharon Gabel, Brenda Goates, Michael Harris, Tiffany Hutchings, Sam Kauffman, Linda Kosten, Chris MacMillan, Tom McGee, Shelley Popke, Rebecca Powell, Martin Quigley, Mark Rodgers, Saskia Sawyer, Scott Schrage, Chase Squires, Thomas Walker, Brittany Wilhelm. Julie Andersen, Evan Colbert, Rebecca Cales, Benjamin Turner, Randy Wagner Michael Scanlon, Ryan McCann, L.J. Agans, Mike Sickinger, Jon Bortles, Karen Nosik, Jan Maurer

**Next meeting: Tuesday, July 12, 8:30 – 10 a.m., Ruffatto Hall #105 (Community Board Room)**

#### **I. Call to Order, Welcome to New Members and Approval of the Minutes – Becky Powell**

Becky Powell called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. She welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the academic year and the first meeting with new members.

There was a motion by Martin Quigley, seconded by Fred Cheever, to approve the minutes from May 10, 2011. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **II. Election of New Officers – Becky Powell**

*Becky announced that there was one nomination for chair of the committee – Fred Cheever. There was a motion by Sharon Gabel, seconded by Lyndsay Agans, to elect Fred Cheever as chair for AY2011-12. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Becky announced there was one nomination for vice chair – Christy Cerrone. There was a motion by Lyndsay Agans, seconded by Linda Kosten, to elect Christy Cerrone as vice chair for AY2011-12. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Becky announced that Kristin Altman is willing to serve another term as webmaster and there are no other nominations. There was a motion by Becky Powell, seconded by Tiffany Hutchings, to elect Kristin Altman as webmaster for AY2011-12. The motion passed unanimously.*

#### **III. Proposed amendment to the Bylaws – Fred Cheever**

Becky said that a proposed amendment to the Bylaws regarding designation of proxies will be tabled until a future meeting. It will ensure that we have an adequate number of votes when a formal vote is required. Fred will draft the amendment. Fred reminded everyone that participation in the Council is not limited to voting members. Anyone can serve on the council and committees and can even chair committees.

#### **IV. Update on DU Sustainability Center Director Search – Fred Cheever**

Fred said that he has chaired a search committee appointed by the Provost. DU posted a half-time faculty release position as center director. The Council has lobbied for such a position for some time because we need a faculty champion in addition to the staff time being provided by Scott Schrage. The

search committee reviewed three applications and has interviewed one candidate, Buck Sanford, extensively. Buck was involved with the Sustainability Council originally but has been working for the National Science Foundation studying global warming. He will be returning to DU in January 2012 and could begin serving as director then.

Lindsay Agans added that Buck chaired the Research and Curriculum Committee and has a real passion for sustainability. He will be able to move DU forward. He understands grants and can be helpful in this area. She said she is thrilled he is in the running for the position.

There was a motion by Fred Cheever, seconded by Lyndsay Agans, as follows:

*"The University of Denver Sustainability Council unanimously recommends that the University extend an offer to Dr. Robert Sanford to serve as the first Director of the DU Center for Sustainability, consistent with the job description published for the position in March 2011." We should also note that we understand that Buck would be unable to assume the duties of Director until January 2012 and that, accordingly, his term should run for 2 1/2 years as opposed to the three-year term contemplated at the job description.*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

Becky said she would forward it to the Barbara Wilcots and Jennifer Karas. Linda Kosten said the decision should be made soon. Fred asked that DU inform the Council as soon as a decision is made.

There was a question whether there will be any staff hired. Fred said there are no plans to hire staff until the Center is up and running. If we have a specific project, we can ask for help. The Center will be housed in J-Mac, thanks to Residence Life. There is one big room which is not yet furnished.

#### **V. STARS Update and Innovation Points – Becky Powell**

Becky explained what the Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) is for the benefit of new members. It is a rating system used by the Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) to track an institution's progress along a large spectrum. The committee is on the verge of getting all the data together for this year's report. The report must be submitted to the Chancellor by June 30 and to AASHE by August 2.

Institutions can earn a total of 100 points. There are four additional points that can be granted for innovative achievements not covered elsewhere in the report. The committee has discussed some potential projects that could be submitted:

- Natural gas fueling system on campus – Tom McGee to write up
- Revolving energy fund that reinvests in upgrades to systems – Tom McGee to write up
- Green house built by Real Estate and Construction Management students this year – Chris MacMillan to write up

Other suggestions from the Council were as follows:

- Sustainability tour and map of campus, developed for the AASHE conference in Denver
- Sustainable grass test at Boettcher East – Martin Quigley to write up, if not already covered in faculty research
- Involvement in AASHE and Rocky Mountain Sustainability Summit – These are already covered in the report

There was a question on how many points we think we will earn. Becky and Linda said they are still compiling the data about faculty research and curriculum, so do not know yet. There was a question about doing a quality control check of the report. Linda said that they will set up the report for viewing. She requested that people email her for the login. She also recognized the work of Christopher Pena, Institutional Research, on this report.

## **VI. Denver B-Cycle Update – Rebecca Cales, Benjamin Turner**

Ben Turner introduced himself. He is a DU alum (MBA '08) and worked with Transportation Solutions. He is now with B-Cycle. He said that B-Cycle is an exceptionally innovative program but needs additional support and usage to be successful. The DU bike kiosks have low usage (Ranked 38, 48, and 50). He suggested DU needs a champion to get students to use the system.

Rebecca Cales, Transportation Solutions, said that there are some options under consideration to boost usage. The problem is that DU is an island so there is no easy access to other stations from it. One option is to set up a satellite, perhaps at Safeway. In the long run, we need to create better connections. She said they are piloting 145 free (suggestion to call it “complimentary”) 12-month memberships for faculty, staff and students. Only 22 have been activated thus far. Transportation Solutions is working with Carl Johnson at Residence Life to publicize the B-Cycle program at orientation in the fall.

Tiffany Hutchings said that this issue has been discussed by the Outreach Committee and it is happy to help. One suggestion is to get the word out to the University Park community and Chase Squires will help with that effort. Kirstin Altman suggested making fliers and asking Admissions to distribute them at Discoveries. Fred said that all orientations should include this topic and he would be happy to discuss law school orientation with someone. Julie Andersen offered the same for the English Language Center. Becky suggested providing free passes at orientation.

There was discussion about how to increase usage, as follows:

- Cost. We should publicize the costs and the advantages of membership. We need to get the word out about the complimentary memberships.
- Many students have their own bikes on campus (don't know the percentage).
- Other good locations would be: Washington Park, sporting goods stores, Sunflower Market, Mad Greens, and South Gaylord shopping area.
- The lack of designated bike routes and connectivity to other places is a limitation. Rebecca said that they are working on getting better route information out. Fred said the map at the kiosks is good.
- The program is only open part of the year which stops the behavior of using the bikes.
- Sell blocks of bikes for use by conference attendees.
- Saskia suggested publicizing the program at the staff picnic on July 21 with a table.
- DU should do a bulk membership purchase. Benjamin said that student government may consider picking up the tab.

## **VII. Committee Reports**

### **A. Website and Outreach – Tiffany Hutchings**

Tiffany encouraged everyone to subscribe to the Green Listserv (send an email to [green-list-  
subscribe@du.edu](mailto:green-list-subscribe@du.edu)) as this is the main communication tool on sustainability. There is an e-calendar on the Green website ([du.edu/green](http://du.edu/green)) which Kristin keeps very dynamic. The goal is to get more links on the website. She requested people send suggestions for links and other content to her.

The committee is also recruiting new members. They meet once a month. They are a working group but have lots of fun. Brittany Wilhelm is the new chair.

Brittany reported on the enewsletter. She asked that people send her stories and committee news. The newsletter is “published” quarterly.

### **B. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – Christy Cerrone**

Christy reported on initiatives on which the RRR Committee is working:

- Expansion of the composting program. There will be more rollouts at Ritchie, Nagel and Driscoll. The full rollout will take place this coming year. She thanked the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) for providing funding and partnering to make this happen.
- Outdoor recycling. The conversion of trash receptacles to recycling bins is underway. Signage will be installed over the summer. This is another collaboration with USG. She hopes we can celebrate the successes at a kick off sustainability mixer in the fall.
- Waste reduction. She said that the residence halls collected and donated more than 15,000 pounds of unneeded “stuff” left at the end of the school year. The donations went to six non-profits.

Scott Schrage commented that we need more signage and education regarding single stream recycling versus having to separate out different materials. It is confusing for people and we do not want them mixing composting with recycling and contaminating the load. Christy said that they are installing stickers on all bins on campus but that we need an educational campaign. Fred said we need to do more promotion about our efforts. We are always being compared to other Colorado universities and what they do.

### **C. Facilities – Tom McGee**

Tom reported that J-Mac should be the first Energy Star certified building on campus by fall. Long Associates has been retained to go through the certification process. The minimum points to qualify is 75 or above and we are at 82.

He is still working on the Smart Grid Phase 1. It will take \$50,000 seed money. The School of Engineering is reviewing it to quantify energy usage and dollar savings. Cathy Potter has sent a letter to the Governor’s Energy Office requesting \$75,000. The Smart Grid consists of software that tracks electrical usage, primarily for heating and air conditioning, and then evens out the loads during peak demand to save dollars.

#### **D. Transportation – Fred Cheever**

Fred said the committee is looking for a new chair. They are also working on two main initiatives:

- Car sharing Program. He said that the committee interviewed four vendors, along with Parking Services. They are: Occasional Car, Zip Car, We Car and eGo Car. They then completed a spreadsheet of various criteria to consider. He explained how the system works. People who sign up get a card or fob that they swipe at the kiosk, then take the car for their errand and return it. Cars are reserved online or with smart phones. The availability of these cars would allow more people to use public transportation to get to and from work.

He said that DU will make the final decision based on many considerations. The committee urges getting a program in place by fall quarter and publicizing it heavily. It does count in the STARS rating system. In response to questions, Fred said the program is open to the community at-large, that it costs about \$10/hour to use a car, that drivers must be 18 years old, and that it looks like costs can be charged to corporate accounts (i.e., DU purchasing cards). He said locations must be prominent and not internal to the campus – we might have locations on the north and south ends.

*There was a motion by Fred Cheever, seconded by Ethan Crawford, as follows:*

*Consistent with the recommendations made by the Transportation Committee of the Sustainability Council, the Sustainability Council unanimously urges the University to enter into an agreement with a car share provider so that car sharing can be available on campus when classes begin in the fall of 2011."*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

- Designated bike routes. Fred said that plans for installing sharrows on High and Iliff are underway. We will need to inform drivers about bikes and vice versa. Transportation Solutions will pay for the signage. Rebecca Cales said the plan has been sent to Denver for approval. Fred said we need to coordinate with the B-Cycle program. There is no proposal to get rid of parking on High Street because of neighborhood objections.

#### **E. Education and Research – Lyndsay Agans, Linda Kosten**

Linda said that we now have definitions for research and curriculum. The STARS team met with a representative from each academic unit to explain the definitions and ask them to complete a spreadsheet on faculty research and curriculum content, plus a Qualtrics survey. They have received 90% of the responses. Christopher Pena is helping with the analysis.

Lyndsay said she is the outgoing chair of the committee, which now needs a new chair. She said that the audit is a major move forward and we need to keep the momentum going in this area. Becky and Linda asked everyone to spread the word about the chair position.

#### **VIII. Green Pioneer Awards – Becky Powell, Tiffany Hutchings**

Becky said she is continuing the tradition started by Lyndsay Agans last year to recognize and honor the time and enthusiasm of some of the folks involved with sustainability on campus. This recognition is the “Green Pioneer” awards. She presented awards as follows:

- Christy Cerrone – For her work as co-chair of the Rocky Mountain Sustainability Summit. It was a huge effort, flawlessly executed and very well-received by the oversold crowd. By the way, she had a baby during the planning. She is also an important link to students and brings people together.
- Jon Bortles – For his work as co-chair of the RMSS and for pushing through the sustainable purchasing policy, all while a fulltime MBA student and working at his family business.
- Kristin Altman – For all her work on the website, which she keeps dynamic and fresh. She also coordinated the vendor fair at the RMSS, which made the summit financially feasible.
- Mariah Shell – She served as the vice president of DUET and has done a remarkable work behind the scenes in a number of ways, including the Earth Summit. She’s only a sophomore so she’ll be back.
- Megan Marshall – For her work as chair of the RRR Committee, Vice Chair of the Undergraduate Sustainability Committee, her work on the Earth Summit for two years and her commitment to expanding composting and recycling. She is a visible face of sustainability. She is also a sophomore.
- Brittany Wilhelm – For her tireless work and enthusiasm on behalf of sustainability. She served on the Outreach Committee and publishes the quarterly enewsletter. She also designed and managed the sustainability tour of campus for the AASHE conference and worked on the RMSS.
- Michael Carter – As maintenance foreman in Residence Life, he worked with students on energy and water reduction efforts. He helped with data gathering and installed the hydration stations and low-flow shower heads. He worked on alternatives for reducing “phantom” energy loss. He has been a great interface between Facilities and students.
- Beth Walker – Unfortunately, Beth is leaving DU. She has been instrumental in developing student leaders in sustainability and linking environmental issues with social responsibility. She also played a big role in the RMSS, coordinating dozens of volunteers. She will be missed.
- Samara Rasmussen – She has served the Council as a dedicated and active member. She is on the Outreach Committee and coordinates the Green listserv. She also facilitates web interface and helps with events and elections. She is always the first to volunteer.
- Penrose Library – Karen Nosek accepted the award on behalf of Penrose. The library has initiated a number of sustainability improvements, including book purchase process, recycling at entrances, reusable bags, setting all printers to duplex, and adding scanners to cut down on paper copies. They have also committed to meeting LEEDS Gold standards in their renovation project.
- Becky Powell – Tiffany presented a special award to Becky for her incredible leadership as chair during a very busy year for the Council. She presided over the RMSS, has headed the STARS rating and is taking a leave of absence from DU to become a resident fellow at the Center for Environment and Sustainability at Wake Forest University. She said she has greatly enjoyed the energy, excitement and accomplishments of this group.

**IX. Next Meeting Date and Place – Fred Cheever**

Fred said he is proposing two meeting dates over the summer: July 12 and August 9, from 8:30 – 10 a.m. A location will be determined and sent out through the Green listserv. The July 12 meeting will be informal.

**X. Announcements**

- A. Shelley Popke said that the Denver City Council will be considering an ordinance on urban animals (chickens and goats) next Monday at 6 p.m.
- B. Tom Walker said that his group will be working over the summer on the draft charge of the social sustainability committee and will present it in the fall.

The meeting adjourned at 10 a.m.