

DU Sustainability Council

Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2012

Members, University Representatives and Guests Present: (*see attendance sheet*)

Next meeting: July 12, 2012

I. Call to Order and Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes (Fred Cheever)

Fred called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. He asked that the meeting minutes from April 4 be approved, and they were approved unanimously.

II. Introductions (Fred Cheever)

There were self-introductions by those present.

Chad King, the new director for the Center for Sustainability, attended today.

III. Vice Chair Report (Christy Cerrone)

Christy reported that 35-40 volunteers helped collect over 24,000 pounds of used furniture and other items from students during the end-of-year move-out from the residence halls. These items were donated to 5 non-profit organizations. They will organize this again for the December move-out period. Christy reported that Good Will delivers drop bins for donations upon request.

IV. When and Where to Meet Next Year (Fred Cheever)

Fred said he felt that the 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. meeting time has been working well, in light of the fact that there is always going to be a conflict for someone, no matter what time or day the council meets. Meetings have been well attended, so we'll keep meeting at this time of morning. We all agreed, however, to switch the regular meeting place over to the larger conference room on the 4th floor of the Law School on the second Thursday of each month.

V. Election of New Council Members (Fred Cheever leads)

Fred explained the organizational structure of Sustainability Council as follows: There are *voting* members of the council. As far back as Fred remembers, the council has always had a consensus on votes, but on the chance of a split decision, a voting member can give a deciding vote.

There are also 15 *elected* members:

- 5 faculty
- 5 staff
- 5 students

One of the two open staff positions has recently been filled by Jane Maurer of the Business School. Students will supplant each other as they go abroad. Fred will send out a list of council members via email.

VI. Election of Council Officers (Fred Cheever leads)

The following will continue on in their current offices:

Chair – Fred Cheever

Vice Chair – Christy Cerrone

Danea Taylor will take on the Web Master position. She’s been serving as Kristin Altman’s backup, so she already knows what to do.

All council members voted in favor.

VII. Green Pioneer Awards (Fred Cheever leads)

Awards were handed out to the following recipients:

- Saskia Taylor – for writing the Green Office Manual
- Ethan Crawford – for “supercharging” the Transportation Committee
- Ira Simon – for his “mindful consumption” work at Sodexo
- Mariah Shell – for her work on the Earth Day Summit for the past two years
- Ryan McCann – for his energetic and enthusiastic work promoting bikes on the Transportation Committee
- Tom McGee – for his “groundbreaking” projects on energy conservation in DU buildings
- Megan Marshall – for her leadership of students on the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Committee, and during the Earth Day Summits of the past two years
- Kristin Altman – for her work on the Sustainability Committee’s Web site
- Mollie Doerner – for her positive attitude as a student representative, and for her work on the Sustainability Summit
- Brittany Wilhelm – for her “Pete’s List” used furniture swap program at DU, and for her Outreach Committee work
- Amy Neu – for her support on the Green Educators project
- Christy Cerrone – for her dedication to working with the student housing recycling projects
- Sharon Gable – for her work on the Green Office project
- Megan Kelly – for her work on the Mindful Consumption committee
- Fred Cheever – for his leadership in chairing the Sustainability Committee, getting a Sustainability Center going with a full-time director – woot!

A Group Award was given to the Housing & Residential Education organization for their leadership in composting and recycling. Christy Cerrone accepted the award in their behalf.

VIII. Committee Reports

- a. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (Megan Marshall leads)
Megan will be meeting with someone in order to find the best provider for recycling electronics. She reported also that Sodexo will be providing compostable coffee cups, silverware and china, and that incoming freshmen will be oriented on how to recycle. She said that HM officials will start a composting process this summer. She also mentioned that the Korbel School is starting a recycling program over the summer as well. Megan and Christy met with staff at the Ritchie Center to work toward zero waste during games. Saskia Sawyer said that the money received from recycling cartridges is donated to the Staff Beneficiary Fund. Fred hopes to see more promotion geared toward students and staff for recycling during the fall.
- b. Social Sustainability Committee (Cara Harris)
Cara reported that there was a Social Justice colloquium last May held in the Living & Learning Community center. They discussed ideas about how to sustain the campus community in spiritual, social and environmental aspects. She reports talks with the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning on how to organize faculty and staff to collectively respond to situations on campus without being reactionary. Hypothetical situations would include things like diversity issues, individuals or groups who feel they have “no voice,” etc.
- c. Food and/or Mindful Consumption Committee (Megan Kelly leads)
Megan reported that Ira Simon of Sodexo held a webinar on the sustainability of feeding 9 billion people. She wants to plan a Food Day in October (after the presidential debate) that looks at how mindful consumption intersects with other sustainability projects like transportation, recycling, energy conservation, etc.
- d. Facilities and Energy (Tom McGee)
The energy analysis on the Ritchie Center shows that electrical consumption during last May was down 30% from May 2011, even though this year was hotter than last, due to energy conservation projects. For the redesign of the Seeley Mudd Science Building, a heat recovery system that is used in Europe will be included. It is hoped that this will increase efficiency and reduce DU’s carbon footprint. Tom reported that 14 fleet vehicles were converted from conventional to natural gas, further reducing DU’s carbon footprint. In response to a question about whether DU will have an electric car recharging station,

Tom said that Buddy Knox of Parking Services has been approached by a number of vendors who would be willing to install a station, but that the cost is prohibitive. Although there are currently two outlets at the Law School, they take 12 hours to recharge a car. A standard recharge *station* would take only 3 hours to recharge a car.

e. Transportation (Ethan Crawford)

Ethan's committee members are working on the Bicycle Friendly University application. He reports that the best hope is for a bronze medal, as DU lacks several "gold-medal" qualities amenable to bikers. Chiefly, bikers do not feel safe riding on the streets around the DU campus.*

A Geography professor (name??) is conducting a research project for a course. Ryan McCann's research material that he created for a transportation initiative for DU will be incorporated into the course. The Transportation Office is working with Winter Walker on presidential debate-related transportation options because of the predicted parking problems.

Bike To Work Day will be on the 27th of June. There will be a stand on the Driscoll Green from Whole Foods. Campus Safety will have a stand providing "beer goggles" – a device that demonstrates how driving intoxicated impedes safety. There will be other stands as well.

Ethan needs more volunteers to work on his Bicycle Advisory Committee.

There are 160 free B-Cycle passes to give out on a first-come, first-served basis to anyone with a DU identification card. One survey showed that 45% of respondents say they drive from one class to the next.

*Sustainability Committee members aired their concerns about the unsafe conditions for bikers and pedestrians on the streets and intersections around DU. A student on his bike was killed a couple of weeks ago by a hit-and-run driver at the intersection of Evans and University. Another student on a bike was injured by a car when she went off a sidewalk, and then was ticketed for riding her bike on the sidewalk while the driver of the car wasn't charged. Traffic around DU has increased in congestion, and speeding and road-rage has ensued. With the construction of a 13-story apartment/shopping complex on the corner of Evans and University, fears of more accidents and deaths are rising. However, very little if any police presence has been seen on the streets and intersections around DU. It was brought up that dialing the "311" number for city-related questions and comments will bring attention to our worries. If enough people requested better police coverage around the DU campus, the city would be more likely to

respond. It was also suggested that the Staff Advisory Council, as well as the DU Women's Coalition could take up this issue of safety as well.

f. Education and Research

There is a "Renew DU" campaign underway, providing money for innovative curricula. Some people are putting together some interdisciplinary material for conferences and conventions.

g. Best Practices (Hutchings)

Working on job descriptions for committee chairs, and on sustainability competencies for PEDS.

h. Outreach (Brittany Wilhelm)

This summer, the Green Office Educators program will launch. Working on revamping the Sustainability newsletter using "i-Modules," which is DU's newsletter system. The new system can trace and count "clicks" to create data on how much the newsletter is read. The Outreach Committee wants to do more committee-specific outreach, i.e., attend other committee meetings in order to report on their doings in the newsletter. Brittany would like to recruit 8 people to help with that.

Gary Brower brought up an article published in the Chronicle of Higher Education toting "Tree Campuses" in the U.S.A. He thought DU should be on the list. Martin Quigley, the DU arboretum director, took note.

IX. Adjournment at 10:00 a.m.