

DU Sustainability Council

Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2010 – 1864 Room, Driscoll Student Center

Members, University Representatives and Guests Present: Lyndsay Agans, Christy Cerrone, Fred Cheever, Ethan Crawford, Suzanne Dastin, Jared Doi, Katie Dunker, Dillon Doyle, Erin Hough, Tiffany Hutchings, Mandy Jameson, Mike Keables, Linda Kosten, Chris MacMillan, Stefani May, Rebecca Powell, Martin Quigley, Samara Rasmussen, Michelle Rembolt, Saskia Sawyer, Chase Squires, Brittany Wilhelm,

Next meeting: Thursday, June 17, 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. Website and Outreach Update – Hutchings

Tiffany Hutchings passed around the new *Princeton Review* publication on green colleges. DU is profiled in it.

Hutchings said there is not much new to report on the website. The Outreach Committee welcomes content and suggestions for the daily tweet, Face Book and the quarterly e-newsletter. The Committee is also trying to find a way to bring Pete’s List back on the web but need to find a tool so that it is easy to post items and manage the list. Linda Kosten suggested contacting Todd Rinehart to see if it would be a good idea to send the e-newsletter to prospective students. Chris MacMillan mentioned that the AACSB – International is holding its annual Sustainability Conference in Denver in June. Bruce Hutton is involved with one of the sessions.

She said the Outreach Committee may combine with the RMSS committee as there is considerable overlap between the two groups. They are meeting almost every week.

III. Elections and Bylaws – Agans

Amendment to the Bylaws

Lyndsay said that the Council is set to vote on amendments to the Bylaws, new members and Council leadership positions today. She reviewed the proposed changes to the Bylaws. The main change is to add the position of Vice Chair, who will serve in the absence of the Chair, to add representation from several major units on campus, and to change the name of AUSA to USG.

There was an additional correction from the floor to change from “president” to “chair” for the USG Sustainability Committee representative. There was no objection to this change.

There was another change from the floor to eliminate the Vice-Provost for Graduate Students and Research as non-voting member of the Council because that position no longer exists. There was no objection to this change. Linda Kosten will speak with the Provost to see if he would like any other representation from his staff listed in the Bylaws.

There was a suggestion to add Daniels Net Impact to the list of organizations having specific representation. It is one of the largest organizations at Daniels and focuses on social and environmental sustainability. There was discussion and the consensus was not to add it to the Bylaws but rather reach out to the group and involve them in the Outreach Committee and other ways. The DUET organization was added because it represents all of DU undergraduate and graduate students, rather than just one unit. Tiffany Hutchings said she would contact Net Impact.

Fred Cheever reminded the group that formal membership on the Sustainability Council is of no consequence, except in rare voting situations. Anyone is very welcome to attend meetings and participate in everything. The reason for specifying certain representation is to make sure these areas are participating in some way.

There was no further discussion on the Bylaws.

There was a motion by Lyndsay Agans, seconded by Fred Cheever, to approve the Bylaws as presented and with the amendments suggested today. The vote was unanimously in favor, with none opposed and no abstentions.

Election of Members and Officers

Agans then moved to the topic of elections. She said the Bylaws call for an election at this time each year. There are three faculty positions open, no staff positions and several student positions.

Faculty

There are three candidates for the three seats:

- Bruce Hutton (running for re-election)
- Becky Powell (running for re-election)
- Martin Quigley (new candidate)

Agans asked if there was any discussion or questions. There being none, she asked that the three candidates be elected by acclamation. There was no objection and thus the faculty members were elected by acclamation. They will each serve a two-year term, expiring May 31, 2012.

Staff

There are no current openings for staff seats. The staff representatives, with the exception of Tiffany Hutchings, were elected last year and will serve until May 31, 2011.

Students

Jon Bortles, who could not attend the meeting today, is coordinating the election of the student members. According to the Bylaws, students conduct their elections separately. Hutchings said she thought he would be able to report out the results soon.

Vice Chair

Agans said she would entertain nominations for Vice Chair. She entered Tiffany Hutchings into nomination. There were no other nominations. There was a motion by Lyndsay Agans, seconded by Becky Powell, to elect Hutchings to a one-year term as Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair

Agans said she would entertain nominations for Chair. She entered Becky Powell into nomination. There were no other nominations. There was a motion by Linda Kosten, seconded by Lyndsay Agans, to elect Powell to a one-year term as Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Webmaster

Agans said she would entertain nominations for Webmaster. Tiffany Hutchings entered Mandy Jameson into nomination. There were no other nominations. There was a motion by Tiffany Hutchings, seconded by Becky Powell, to elect Jamison to a one-year term as Webmaster.

IV. Green Pioneer Awards – Agans

Agans said she wanted to start an award to recognize outstanding contributions to the Sustainability Council each year. By next year, there will be procedures in place for how the awards are determined. Meanwhile, the Best Practices Committee served as a de facto nominating committee for the awards. They met to discuss nominees and the consensus was that there was no way to choose just one person per category. Therefore, the nominees will be the recipients. Environmentally-friendly awards will be presented at the June meeting to:

Staff

Tiffany Hutchings
Chris MacMillan

Administrators

Gregg Kvistad
Linda Kosten

Faculty

Fred Cheever
Debra Austin
David Ceipley

Students

Jon Bortles
Erin Hough
Dillon Doyle

There was a round of applause for the Green Pioneer Award winners.

V. AASHE Updates – Kosten, Wilhelm

Linda Kosten reported that the proposed tours for the AASHE conference (October 10-12) are now on the web and look amazing. Brittany Wilhelm said that there are going to be four tours. Each will share basic information and then branch into foci on: (1) sustainable buildings, (2) arboretum/permaculture, (3) energy, and (4) curriculum and research. Each tour will have an “expert” guide and student activists. The plan is to have 15 people on each tour. It will be on Sunday morning and include light rail and a lunch on campus.

Agans said that there is a call out for proposals and the goal is to have a strong presence from DU. She said she is happy to help with framing the proposals. The strength of the AASHE conference is its variety of topics.

Stefani May and Suzanne Dastin reported that they are participating in a proposal to have a panel on green careers. They plan to involve Sturm Law, Korb and other career centers on campus.

There was discussion about how to get the word out about the proposal process. Kosten said we couldn't use Webcentral because there are so many professional conferences that we would inundate the community if we publicized them all that way.

Saskia Sawyer, who is the representative from the Staff Advisory Council, said that she would bring up the opportunity at the next SAC meeting. Linda Kosten suggested that the SAC members be added to the sustainability listserv and requested to forward messages to their units. Hutchings said she would follow up on this suggestion.

Kosten encouraged everyone to visit the website. Early bird registration ends mid-summer. The professional fee is \$325. She asked what is happening with the decision that the Sustainability Council sponsors 10 students to attend. There was discussion about the best way to proceed. The consensus was to request a block of 10 student registrations before the Early bird offer ends. Students who won the Green Pioneer Awards and who are presenting at the conference should get preference. After that, both undergraduate and graduate students could email a request with a brief reason why they want to attend the conference. These requests can be submitted to Tiffany Hutchings.

VI. Rocky Mountain Sustainability Summit – Cerrone

Christy Cerrone reported that planning is well underway for this conference, which is next February. The committee has a draft schedule, marketing plans, and logo. They are developing the logistics. They need more volunteers to help with budget, funding, green amenities, and other items. They are meeting after the regular Council meeting today. The conference is planned for attendance of 200-250 and a registration fee of \$125. It is unknown if the AASHE conference will drive attendance down since the conferences are so close together.

VII. Committee Reports

Lyndsay Agans requested that each committee elect a chair and report back on membership and the chair as soon as possible.

A. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Committee – Hough

Erin Hough reported that the committee may combine efforts and names with the USG sustainability committee. They are working through the transition issues for next year. The chair of the USG is appointed by the Senate. Several students will remain active next year, including Dillon Doyle and Megan Marshall.

The permaculture garden now has a web page linked to Geography's. There were suggestions to link it to the Sustainability website. Martin Quigley reported that the perma-garden was planted recently and was immediately invaded by foxes, who loved the peat moss. He invited everyone to stop by. He also

addressed the important goal of making the campus landscaping reflective of our environment and not just green grass and specimen trees. It will be a long-term cultural shift. He wants to plant sustainable eco-systems. One focus is the Harpers Gardens but funding is an issue. He will be working on fundraising for iconic landscaping installations at campus entrances. We have to contend with Denver codes, and may need to request variances. He said sustainable landscaping can be fabulous but it has a bad reputation as shabby and sparse.

B. Transportation Committee

There was no report from the Transportation Committee. Kosten said she has reached out to Parking Services and Transportation Solutions but has not gotten a response. Fred Cheever said that he would be willing to serve as the chair of the committee. He would like to champion bike paths on and around campus. Committees elect their own chairs so Agans invited Cheever to discuss with the membership of the Committee members.

C. Facilities and Energy

There was no report from the Facilities and Energy Committee. Tom McGee had to attend a Building and Grounds Committee meeting this morning.

D. Curriculum and Research – Keables

Mike Keables said that the committee has not met recently. He reported that there are now 30 students in the sustainability minor and they have added another section of the Gateway class. Martin Quigley will be teaching the capstone course. Keables said he will need to rotate out as committee chair due to other work commitments. Agans said she would be willing to serve as chair if Bruce Hutton did not want to do so. Chris MacMillan will check with Hutton and get back to Agans.

E. Best Practices – Powell, Agans

Becky Powell said the Best Practices Committee has been heavily involved with the planning for AASHE and RMSS.

Agans said that they have also been working on required reports. She requested that committee chairs provide her with one-page summaries of accomplishments for the past year. They will compile a year-end report based on this information.

Powell distributed a final draft of the sustainability map and requested that everyone review it and provide her feedback by May 31. She will get it uploaded to the web after May 31. The map is the work of two graduate students – Katy Williams and Joe Hoover. They are now working on a web-interactive version.

There were suggestions to provide copies of the map at the arboretum kiosk and to add an ordinal system to the map to aid with locating items. Quigley will coordinate with Powell on the latter because he uses this system for the arboretum map.

VIII. Other Business

- A. *Meeting dates and times for Next Year.* Chris MacMillan suggested that we set the meeting schedule for next year. It was agreed that Thursday mornings late in the month are somewhat problematic and conflict with Building and Grounds Committee and Dean's Council. MacMillan will follow up with the Provost and Vice Chancellor's Offices to find some possible time slots. The Council will then be polled for best meeting dates and times. The location of the meetings should be as consistent as possible.

- B. *Erin Hough's Farewell.* Erin thanked the group for everything and said she has really appreciated the respect with which the students are treated on this Council. She will be studying abroad next year and will not be able to be involved with the Council. Everyone, in turn, thanked Erin for her contributions to the Council and the sustainability efforts at DU.

- C. *Student Election "Graffiti."* Mike Keables suggested that students be required to clean up their election signs and spray paint immediately following the elections. Quigley commented on the difficulty of cleaning up the spray paint that was used. Students should be using chalk only. Hough said that there is discussion of charging students the costs of clean up.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.