

DU Sustainability Council

Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2011 – DuPont Room, Mary Reed Building

Members, University Representatives and Guests Present: Kristin Altman, Lindsey Bauhofer, Ethan Crawford, Brenda Goates, Linda Kosten, Neil Krauss, Chris MacMillan, Megan Marshall, Stefani May, Tom McGee, Rebecca Powell, Martin Quigley, Mariah Shell, Chase Squires, Thomas Walker, Randy Wagner, Sarah Bexell, Michael Sickinger, Scott Schrage, Jessica Morton, Emma Howard, Mollie Doerner, Megan Kelly, Madelaine (Lumpp) DeVan, Andrew Bishop, Julie Andersen, Brandon Reich-Sweet, Matthew Farrell, Kaitlyn Griffith, Rebecca Cales, Janna Six, Kristin Altman.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 14, 8:30 – 10 a.m., Dupont Room, Mary Building

I. Call to Order, Overview of Today’s Meeting – Becky Powell

Becky Powell called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

II. Approval of Last Meeting’s Minutes – Powell

There was a motion by Thomas Walker, seconded by Linda Kosten, to approve the minutes from April 12, 2011. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Announcements

- A. Lindsey Bauhofer announced that NetImpact is hosting a BBQ at Washington Park on Saturday, May 14. It is a fun get-together. Lindsey explained that NetImpact is a national organization with a local chapter at DU. It networks within the green industry and Denver organizations. DU sends representatives to the national conference.
- B. Janna Six with the Alliance for a Sustainable Colorado announced the iMatter Mega March in Denver on Saturday, May 14. The event is national in scope and is an inter-generational, social justice, and climate action movement.

IV. Sustainability Mixer and Earth Month Report – MacMillan, Shell

Chris MacMillan said that the sustainability mixer was a good event and about 40 people were in attendance. There was a general sense among attendees that it would be a good idea to hold another one in the fall.

Mariah Shell said that the Earth Month Summit was very successful, with more than 130 in attendance.

V. “Take Back the Tap” Campaign – Bishop

Andrew Bishop said that “take back the tap” is a national campaign on campuses and the goal is to ban bottled water as much as possible, including sales at events. To further this goal, DU is installing hydration stations and water spouts at fountains over the summer. Students are working with University Admissions on a solution for use of water bottles during prospective student tours. One proposed solution is to install more outdoor fountains. He distributed the results of student survey on drinking

water which showed high support for eliminating single-use water bottles. They are also working on the Pepsi contract, which includes bottled water.

Linda Kosten said that Sodexo is installing fountain machines in Sturm Law and Daniels to offer chilled water. They will also be using compostable cups. Sodexo is aware of the student initiative.

Lindsey Bauhofer said that NetImpact would be interested in teaming up on this initiative.

VI. Permaculture Garden Group - Powell

Becky Powell said that there is now a group on campus that will manage the DU community gardens and the permaculture garden. The concept is to pair students with community members to work in the gardens.

VII. Penrose Move and Options for Book Shuttle – Kosten

Linda Kosten said that the Library will be purchasing a Prius hybrid to shuttle books back and forth between campus and the warehouse. Dean Nancy Allen feels this vehicle will be adequate for the demand. They will stop the contract with the company that currently delivers the books. A group of deans and faculty will make recommendations on which books will go to storage and which will come back to the library. The decision to reduce the number of books in the library was based on the need to provide more study seating. The library operates 24/7 and is very popular.

Fred Cheever asked how the carbon emissions of the car will be tracked. Tom McGee said that the car will use a gas card and it can be added into the carbon footprint calculations.

Brandon Reich-Sweet, who is with Students to Save Penrose, addressed their concerns. There was discussion about the pros and cons of the library's renovation and operating plans. Brandon said that people can find out more about the situation and sign a petition by going to SavePenrose.com and Info@Penrose.com.

Tom McGee explained the goal of the DU Sustainability Plan – reducing our footprint by 24% by 2050. It is based on many factors and assumptions. Penrose is just one part of the footprint and the need for physical books may be totally changed by 2050. In response to questions, Tom explained efforts being undertaken with solar and lighting retrofits, among others.

Martin Quigley said that DU needs to take more advantage of “low hanging fruit.” One of these is the arboretum, which sequesters carbon. DU needs a plan and funding to increase the tree canopy on a large scale. He said that he cannot proceed without a consultant hired by the University Architect. Fred asked if he would like the Sustainability Council to make a motion to support the expansion of the arboretum as part of the carbon neutrality plan. He said there is probably strong support on the council. Martin suggested a resolution. Becky suggested that the arboretum could be added to the Sustainability Plan when it is revised. She said she would put this item on the June 14 agenda.

VIII. Search for Director of the DU Sustainability Center – Cheever

Fred Cheever reported that the search committee received three applications and is currently interviewing a candidate, Robert “Buck” Sanford for the half-time faculty position. The position will report to Barbara Wilcots and Jennifer Karas. Buck was involved with the Sustainability Council at the beginning and then spent two years at the National Science Foundation. He said that anyone who is interested can attend a lunch meeting on May 16 with Buck. The final decision will rest with the Provost, with input from the community. There was a request that Fred send the CVs to the Green listserv.

IX. Election Results – Powell, Rasmussen, Marshall

Samara reported that about half the voting members have cast their votes thus far. The voting site will be open until the end of the week. Chris will send the link again via email. Becky said the results will be reported by email.

Becky also said that Kristin Altman is willing to continue as webmaster. We also need to elect a new chair and vice chair, which will be done by Qualtrics or at the next meeting on June 14.

Megan Marshall reported that the process for electing the students-at-large is in process. She will be on study abroad next fall and will find a representative while she is gone.

X. Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws – Powell

Becky said that she is proposing a change to the By-Laws to add a standing representative from DU Student Life. This area is a very important component of our sustainability efforts. Christy Cerrone has been serving as an elected staff member at-large, which has filled the need. However, it would be better to insure we always have someone from that area.

There was a motion by Martin Quigley, seconded by Fred Cheever, to add a standing representative from DU Student Life to the Sustainability Council. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Becky said she would follow up with Jo Calhoun on appointing the representative. If Christy is appointed, it will open up a staff at-large seat.

There was a clarification that student groups can have an “official” representative if they are part of an elected body (e.g., Chair of the USG Sustainability Committee). The students should make a proposal on any additional student group representation on the Council. Becky reiterated that everyone can participate on the Council and that formal voting power doesn’t really matter. Megan said that was true but an assigned representative is more likely to make an effort to attend the meetings and be active. She also emphasized that student at-large members need to be more active. Linda Kosten suggested that perhaps student organizations be allowed to petition for a formal seat at the table (e.g., NetImpact at Daniels, ECO Conscious at GSSW). Becky acknowledged these suggestions and concerns and asked that we think carefully about balancing between being welcoming and having accountability.

XI. Committee Reports

A. Website and Outreach – Hutchings

Tiffany said the committee is meeting tomorrow. It is working on:

- Pete's List reactivation
- Getting more content online
- Keeping representatives from each entity

The committee also staffed the table at the Benefits Fair and found more people have heard of the Council. Several were added to the Green Listserv. She encouraged everyone to get on the Green Listserv to receive communications.

B. Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle – Megan Marshall, Jess Morton, Neil Krauss

Jess Morton reported that Christy, Dave Snyder (Facilities) and Mark Rodgers toured campus and picked out 13 locations for outdoor recycling bins. Signage is already in. The program should start in the fall.

Other updates included:

- Bins are on order for the residence hall recycling (e.g., batteries, cell phones, ink cartridges) and should be ready for fall
- There will be new bins for composting and landfill. Ritchie Center will have 24 bins.
- The Committee continues to work with Sodexo. The goal is to have zero waste at games in the fall.
- Another goal is to improve indoor recycling, signage and availability of bins.
- The "Megan Kelly student videos" will be used as part of student orientation and other actions will be taken to educate students about recycling.

C. Facilities and Energy – Tom McGee

Tom McGee reported on several projects:

- The Halls and Towers 60% efficient boilers will be replaced with 85%. These buildings account for 10-15% of the total campus gas consumption, so we should see a reduction.
- Smart Grid (electrical) meeting. We received \$68,000 from the Governor's Office and DU's match is under consideration. Tom needs to meet with some faculty to see if it's a good direction. If so, then the proposal will go to the Provost. They could be a \$100,000 annual savings and no service interruptions. He said that Facilities is already doing setbacks in buildings. Linda Kosten asked if we would be doing education. Tom said it is possible to provide real time data on dorm rooms that shows the impact of turning the computer or switching on lighting. One concern is keeping the system safe from hackers. Neil Krauss said that engineering students can learn about the instrumentation and also study the behavioral impacts. Tom added that CU found 30% reduction in electricity and 10% in peak demand.
- Utility tracking database. He said that the Energy Star analysis is done. One dorm, J-Mac, is a top performer with a rating of 82 (75 or above is great). The other dorms are average (40-60 points). The reason is that J-Mac is an older building without air conditioning and relatively efficient heating and lighting systems.

D. Transportation – Fred Cheever

Fred Cheever reported:

- There is progress on sharrows on High Street and Iliff. Rebecca Kales, from Transportation Solutions, said that there is a preliminary draft proposal to obtain a grant to install the sharrows. Fred said we need to educate drivers on the trunk routes about sharrows.
- We have now interviewed four car sharing companies: (Occasional, Eco Car Share, We Car and Zip Car) for services at DU. Fred commented that car sharing is the future, according to a recent *New York Times* article.
- There is no bike path infrastructure on the campus. We are in danger of losing one of our B-cycle kiosks because of low usage. We need to do more publicity. Rebecca added we are among the three lowest performing kiosks, with only 18 members. DU is an island with most usage occurring within the campus. The program may move one station to Wash Park and leave two on campus. The website is denverbikesharing.com. Fred asked if it is worthwhile to do awareness-raising. Rebecca said that B-cycle is going to ride the area to see if there's a better location for the stations and the potential for expansion.

E. Education and Research – Kosten

Linda reported that each academic unit is completing a survey on sustainable courses and curriculum, with a deadline of May 13. Becky said we will then have a database which may reside in Banner going forward.

Megan mentioned that she tried to register for a sustainability course and the label was empty. Becky said we need to follow up with the Registrar.

F. Best Practices – STARS- Powell

Becky reported that the committee is doing ongoing data collection. The report will be submitted in July. We also need to do Version 1.1 of the Sustainability Plan and fold in the Arboretum.

XII. Other Announcements

Linda Kosten announced that Neil Krauss is leaving DU and going to the CU Anschutz medical campus. The Council thanked him for what he has done on behalf of the Council. She introduced Scott Schrage as the Council staff support going forward. Scott is from Facilities Management.

XIII. Next Meeting date and place

Becky Powell said the next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 14 in the DuPont Room in the Mary Reed Building from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 10 a.m.