

## DU Sustainability Council

### Meeting Minutes

**October 13, 2011**

**Members, University Representatives and Guests Present:** Jon Bortles, Christy Cerrone, Fred Cheever, Ethan Crawford, Cara DiEnno, Tay Dunklee, Sharon Gabel, Michael Harris, Emma Howard, Tiffany Hutchings, Bruce Hutton, Paul Kaiser, Sam Kauffman, Megan Kelly, Linda Kosten, Lauri Kraus, Chris MacMillan, Jane Maurer, Mared Mazurek, Tom McGee, Keith Miller, Jess Morton, Tiffany Myers, Daniel Powell, Martin Quigley, Andy Reger, Mark Rodgers, Kristi Roybal, Scott Schrage, Lisken Seader, Chase Squires, Brittany Wilhelm, Vanessa Schoenecker, Ryan McCann, Rebecca Cales, Lindsey Bauhofer, Bo Storozuk, Jacaranda Palmateer, Callie Smith, Nicole Vilegi, Brian Smith, Marty Martin, Michael Nagy, Randy Wagner, Dana Lewis, Julie Andersen.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, November 10, 8:30 – 10 a.m., Driscoll Student Center Room 1880

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

Linda Kosten offered several corrections to the minutes. There was a motion by Martin Quigley, seconded by Daniel Powell, to approve the Minutes as amended. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

#### **II. Introductions** (Fred Cheever)

Fred welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for self-introductions.

#### **III. Vice Chair Report** (Christy Cerrone)

Christy reported on two items:

- A. There is a graduate student from the Naropa Institute who has offered to partner on projects in sustainability as part of his master's thesis. She asked anyone who is interested in talking with him to contact her.
- B. Campus Sustainability Day, sponsored by AASHE, is on Wednesday, October 26. There will be a variety of activities at DU that day, including the J-Mac Energy Star Celebration at 4:30 p.m. and a film at 7 p.m.

#### **IV. Sustainability Coordinator Search** (Fred Cheever)

Fred said that DU is professionalizing the sustainability program at DU by creating a fulltime staff coordinator position in the Center for Sustainability. Many universities already have such a position. The position is posted and it has generated a great deal of interest. Fred will be chairing the search committee and is looking for interested faculty, students and staff to serve on it. He will finalize the committee next week. The proposed timeline is to begin reviewing applications, closing the posting by November 1 if there is an adequate pool, conducting interviews in November and having someone on board in January. Fred said we have a great opportunity to get an extraordinary person, given the amount of interest thus far.

Linda Kosten suggested that there should be forums with the final candidates so that anyone who wants to meet them can do so. Fred said there would be.

**V. Sustainability Mixer Report (Chris MacMillan)**

Chris and Brittany Wilhelm reported on the last week's Gold and Green Reception. The planning committee also included Randy Wagner, Christy Cerrone, and Danae Taylor. There were about 60 in attendance (131 RSVPs). The reaction seemed to be positive. The event included refreshments, door prizes, tabletop topics, and remarks by Fred and Paul Rowland from AASHE. The consensus of the Council at the meeting was that the time of day worked well and that the Sustainability Council should make it an annual event.

**VI. Committee Reports (Chairs)**

**A. Website and Outreach (Brittany Wilhelm)**

Brittany said that planning for the mixer received most of the attention of the committee for the past month. They did meet last week to talk about goals and develop an action plan for the year. They will focus on getting the word out about WeCar and Bcycle. They want to use the calendar function of the website more extensively. She asked everyone to send dates of committee meetings and other activities. She said they are developing a "Fun Facts" sheet about buildings and energy. Their goal is to keep the website fresh and up-to-date. They are reaching out to student groups and would like to attend meetings. The newsletter will go out next week and focus on transportation. The social media count is: 440 listserv, 629 Twitter, and 280 Face Book. The Twitter account is [twitter.com/sustaindu](https://twitter.com/sustaindu).

Sharon Gabel commented that Kristin Altman presented to about 40 newcomers at the recent faculty and staff orientation and did a great job talking about sustainability. They were lots of questions and interest.

There was a suggest to explore Yammer as a way to communicate with faculty and staff. It is an internal blogging system.

**B. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (RRR) Committee (Jess Morton)**

Jess said that the RRR Committee will be meeting on Thursday, October 27 at 8:30 a.m. in the Nelson Hall conference room. People can teleconference in if they can't attend in person. They will be talking about expanding composting to Ritchie Center and Joy Burns Center and finalizing the outdoor recycling system. The Math Department has asked about resuming the system of converting recycled paper into notepads.

**C. Social Sustainability Committee (Cara DiEnno)**

Cara said that this new committee will meet on Wednesday, October 19 at 9 a.m. at the Law School Clinic. Mike Harris said they would take stock of where DU is on social justice and sustainability. They will also work on a mission statement and goals for the year.

D. Food and/or Mindful Consumption Committee (Emma Howard and Megan Kelly)  
Megan said that this new committee has started drafting a mission statement, as follows:

*“The Mindful Consumption Committee seeks to raise awareness among the DU community of the environmental impact of food consumption choices. The committee will work with the Sustainability Council to provide information and resources to help our community make mindful, sustainable, and healthy choices. We aim to make sustainable options – local, organic, seasonal, and fair trade food and drink – more available on campus, as we educate the campus community about the connection between nutrition and personal health. In addition, the committee supports student-led sustainability initiatives.”*

She asked the Council to review the draft and provide feedback. She reported that Monday, October 24 is World Food Day. They are planning a sustainable dinner, working with Ira Simon, the new Director of Dining for Sodexo. They are also talking about lobbying for Meatless Mondays and for more use of organic and local food. There is a “Real Food Challenge” to use local, organic food in which DU can participate ([www.realfoodchallenge.org](http://www.realfoodchallenge.org)). There will be a photo competition and she asked people to post pictures on Face Book. They will also be screening “Fresh”, sponsored by Chipotle.

One other initiative being discussed is a book display. Honor Code Week is at the same time as World Food Day but the library said they would do it in November. She asked for suggestions of books. They will create a bibliography and move the display around campus.

Mike Harris commented that Sodexo is open to changes. Some opposition to Meatless Mondays has come from athletes.

There was a question about whether the committee is only focusing on food or whether it includes all kinds of consumption. Megan said that is a good question and one they need to discuss. For example, there is a green purchasing policy and not many people know about it and what it means. Brittany suggested doing a “Fun Fact” about the purchasing policy and sending it to budget officers and the Staff Advisory Council (SAC). Perhaps the committee’s charge could include institutional policies and educating people about them. There is also a need for lobbying. A broader campaign than food makes sense. Tiffany Hutchings suggested that we may need an ad hoc group to do staff education.

Lisken Seader suggested that committee could start with food issues but have a broader overall mission. There will probably be some overlap with the RRR committee.

Mike Harris said that food is so necessary and so difficult to address that it is more urgent. We need to make cultural changes. The committee could be divided into functions. DU is behind other universities in this area. Claremont, for example, uses recycled bamboo utensils and local food. We don't even know our food sources at this point.

Megan suggested looking at the AASHE site for ideas about dining policies and approaches. Mike said Sodexo isn't the stumbling block because they do innovative things elsewhere. The issues may be with the contract and cost impacts.

Linda Kosten mentioned a recent program on NPR regarding the negative impact of agriculture on greenhouse gases and the environment.

#### E. Facilities (Tom McGee)

Tom reported on the Smart Grid pilot project at Olin Hall. The Engineering Department is modeling data to see if load shedding and setbacks can help with reducing peak demand utility rates. 60% of the utility bill is incurred during peak times. If the pilot is successful, Smart Grid could be rolled out to other facilities on campus. The project doesn't address the carbon footprint at DU but helps impact the overall supply system.

He also reported on vendor misers. He is working with Sam Kauffman on getting motion sensors installed which sets back energy needs during off hours. They are evaluating Shwayder as the first location. Using this type of vending machine will give us AASHE credit. Sensors are also being installed in Centennial Towers on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor north to reduce non-emergency hallway lighting. This pilot program may be expanded.

#### F. Transportation (Ethan Crawford)

Ethan introduced Rebecca Cales from Transportation Solutions, a partner of DU's.

Rebecca said the partnership began in 2002. Transportation Solutions operates the Transportation Center. They issue ECO passes and run the guaranteed ride home to encourage people to use public transit. They have applied for a grant relating to infrastructure and policies with Denver. The bids are out to install sharrows and painting on High Street could be started in a few weeks. They will be conducting a survey of the DU community starting October 31. The survey will cover usage and barriers to public transit. Ryan McCann, who is a fellow with TS and a law student, is doing bicycle research. The results of the survey and research will be fed into the DU Master Plan.

Ryan said that he is researching bike friendly campuses to see what programs and infrastructure they have. He will produce a report for review. It will identify gaps in bike paths around and in campus. The solutions will involve coordination with Denver.

Fred asked how the Sustainability Council could help with publicizing the survey. Rebecca said they plan to blanket the campus. Mark Rodgers said he would invite Ryan and Rebecca to the next master plan meeting to be sure it addresses all aspects of sustainability.

Ethan thanked Rebecca and her staff for everything they do for DU. He then updated the Bicycle plan to move one station from campus to nearby. The station at Nagel is under-utilized. Nagel has four rentals a day and Driscoll has nine. It will probably be moved to Washington Park. There are logistical problems with moving it to Safeway. It will cost \$10,000 to move the station and funds need to be raised. He said there are still a few free memberships available at the Transportation Center.

Ethan then introduced Brian Smith and Marty Martin from We Car with Enterprise Holdings. They provided information about how WeCar works. Information and registration is at [www.wecar.com/du](http://www.wecar.com/du). The program started September 8 and is already doing better than projected. Kenny Reiser is a DU student who has been hired as an intern for the program. Jeff Billings, a DU alum, manages the nearest Enterprise site on E. Evans, which will provide maintenance support. There will be monthly reports on the number of memberships and hours of usage. There are currently two cars assigned. A third will be added if the number of memberships and usage warrant it. It is too early to compare DU's usage with other locations. Fred said the Sustainability Council could help with publicizing the program. Rebecca offered to put collateral in the Transportation Center.

Fred requested that he receive a copy of the monthly report on a regular basis. He said it was great that people now have so many options to using their cars. Keith Miller commented there are still some barriers, such as car pools, needing to take children around and lack of showers.

#### G. Education and Research (Fred Cheever)

Fred said this committee still lacks a chair. In the interim, he said he would convene the group on a monthly basis so we can make progress on the sustainability minor, programs and definitions. The committee is open to non-faculty. He asked who was interested in serving on it. The following people expressed interest:

- Tiffany Myers
- Megan Kelly
- Fred Cheever
- Ethan Crawford

#### H. Best Practices (Tiffany Hutchings)

Tiffany said that we need to have an education program to let people know about such things as the green purchasing policy and the Best Practices Committee will work with the Outreach Committee. The committee would like to connect with student groups and make sure they are talking with each other. They have made sure the admissions office staff know about the Gold AASHE rating so they can explain it to prospective students. Linda Kosten said that Kevin Carroll and Mark Rodgers are talking about signage for the gardens. Christy said that she has students available to do research about other campuses and AASHE resources. For example, a student did research on honey bees for Liskin in the College of Education. The committee will also be working on updates to the Sustainability Plan from 2008 and will be contacting committee chairs for help and dialog. They will also work with Mark Rodgers on the Land Use Plan update process.

Fred suggested that committees use the Green listserv to blast out information about committee meetings. Samara Rasmussen is the moderator and turns around email requests quickly.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.