

Sustainability Committee Report

Date: October 8, 2012

Members Present: Linda Kogan, Kevin Gilford (Office of Sustainability), Tom Huber, Carole Huber, David Havlick (Geography), Nanna Meyer (Health Sciences), Cynthia Norton (Environmental Health and Safety), Miriam Haas (Sodexo/Student), Russell Saunkeah (Sodexo), Pamala Sawyer (School of Public Affairs), Andrea Hessler and Hillary Fuller (students, Geography and Environmental Studies), and Janel Owens (Committee Chair, Chemistry and Biochemistry)

Meeting topics:

I. Welcome

II. Inclusion of Sustainability Principles into General Education Goals

- a. David Havlick part of GE task force
- b. In 2010, UCCS faculty approved new GE goals
- c. Current phase is to develop a structure to meet new goals
- d. Dedication towards incorporating sustainability, diversity and inclusiveness and writing-intensive courses into curriculum with approval from various campus stakeholders (LAS C&R committee, Colleges, Chairs & Directors)
- e. Please read document circulated by David Havlick and Christina Jimenez (Co-Chair of GE Task Force) and provide feedback and comments.
- f. David also requested that Committee members participate in GE events
- g. Perhaps stress sustainability in Freshman Seminar/Gateway Course?
- h. Committee and student concerns on how to implement and gauge how well sustainability principles are being embedded into the general education experience.

III. Office of Sustainability News

- a. Newsletter from Office of Sustainability is circulated monthly to about 860 people. Takes a lot of work to put the newsletter together and it was asked how well received the newsletter was. Please give feedback!
- b. Bike Month has finished and was deemed successful, though not sure how many people participated this year (compared to last year). Still crunching the numbers...
- c. New dorm buildings (Echo and Copper) are on the path to becoming LEED Gold.
- d. New challenges:
 1. LEED Gold buildings across campus have been met (which is admirable!).
 2. What is the new target? MUST consider energy target and energy efficiency in new buildings to achieve 40% energy reduction in buildings (part of the

Sustainability Strategic Plan). Better to focus on energy efficiency and report building energy use as kBtu/ft² / year.

3) The Committee feels strongly that more faculty and students need to be involved in building and master plans!

e. On October 24th, a campus Sustainability Tour is planned from 11 – 12. More details to follow. Josh Hendrickson, student in the Office of Sustainability, is working with OWLs and Ambassadors to have sustainability initiatives highlighted on all campus tours.

f. Hydration stations (funded through Green Action Fund) are being installed around campus and current installations include: 2nd floor of EPC, U Hall, Dwire, Engineering, Columbine, and Main Hall. Kudos to Kevin Gilford for his strong and consistent leadership in seeing these hydration stations installed around campus!

g. Greening the Offices program is continuing with mutual learning: idea is to improve occupant comfort and increase productivity while meeting the 7% behavioral change needed to address climate commitment and Sustainability Strategic Plan.

IV. Green Action Fund

a. Proposal deadline is Friday, October 12th

b. Committee will meet soon to begin evaluations of proposed projects (proposers can include students, staff, and faculty) of small, intermediate, and large projects.

c. Fee is up for renewal this spring by student body – need to ensure that the collected fees are disbursed to promote projects that are of interest to students!

V. New business

a. Harvest Dinner (Thursday, Sept 27th) at the Heller Center was a great success and thanks to all participants involved!

b. Trails Committee met on Friday, October 5th – we have a dedicated group focused on improving the trails on the UCCS campus while protecting unique natural features.

c. Please meet in sub-groups (Food, Greening the Campus, and Curriculum) prior to next month's meeting.

Next meeting: Monday, November 12th from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm, El Pomar Center 304C

Meeting will be announced in week prior with agenda sent out (though added agenda items are certainly welcomed!)