

## **Sustainability Committee Report**

Date: September 10, 2012

Members Present: Linda Kogan, Kevin Gilford (Office of Sustainability), Tom Huber, Carole Huber (Geography), Nanna Meyer (Health Sciences), Cynthia Norton (Environmental Health and Safety), Miriam Haas (Sodexho/Student), Russell Saunkeah (Sodexho), Daniel Ricci (Graduate Student), Daphne Greenwood (Economics) and Janel Owens (Committee Chair, Chemistry and Biochemistry)

Meeting topics:

### **I. Welcome**

### **II. Plans for Upcoming Year**

#### **a. Continue with three sub-committees:**

1. Greening the campus
2. Food services
3. Curriculum

b. Committee members felt that the three sub-committees were effective in achieving goals established for AY 2010 – 2011, and though were not as formal in AY 2011 – 2012, we should continue! A Blackboard shell will help members communicate and develop plans.

### **III. Members in attendance shared past successes and goals for upcoming year:**

#### **a. Russ Saunkeah:**

- i. Working with Food Advisory Committee & greenhouse manager hiring committee
- ii. Student and Sodexho marketing intern, Miriam Haas, will be helping Russ with message of sustainability to Sodexho staff (Welcome, Miriam!)

#### **b. Nanna Meyer:**

- i. Students funded through Pikes Peak Community Foundation
- ii. One student-funded project: “The Flying Carrot”, an educational bus illustrating seed-to-plate with interactive educational tools (build a plate, art projects, blender bike)
- iii. Important to focus on service learning components
- iv. Lane Center for Academic Health Sciences in planning stages

v. Transition Colorado focused on increased local food production to help local income families in time of drought and economic hardships (perhaps goal for Food subgroup?)

c. Linda Kogan:

- i. Bike Month and Bike Jam
- ii. Teaching Freshman Seminar – rewarding!
- iii. Installation of LED lights on walkways
- iv. Focused on Implementation team for Sustainability Strategic Plan
- v. Installation of hydration stations around campus per Green Action Fund
- vi. Composting is going very well
- vii. Will install shadowboxes above dish return station in Café 65
- viii. Sustainability Conference on October 25 – 26 (Catamount Institute) – would be great to get UCCS representation!

d. Kevin Gilford:

- i. Greening the Offices program continuing (finished in Facilities Services and Financial Aid)
- ii. Now working with academic departments – Daphne initiated discussion of how this program is implemented. So far, very positive feedback and buy-in!

e. Cynthia Norton:

- i. Focused on recycling and production of hazardous waste streams in annual campus training
- ii. Working with Stephanie Hanenberg to focus on needle disposal

f. Daphne Greenwood:

- i. Organized successful forum, “Building a Brighter Future for Now and the Next Generation.” Conference focused on many sustainability-focused and –related topics: food distribution, clean energy and job creation. Had lots of community and student participation.
- ii. Daphne and Kevin led discussion, “Sustainability: the 99% solution”, the last and best attended of the “Occupy Wall Street” forums for UCCS community.
- iii. Daphne will be on sabbatical next year and wants to ensure that students are informed that courses, Economics of Work and Pay; Ecological Economics, will be offered this year (but not next year). It is too late for students to sign up for the course this fall.

g. Carole Huber:

- i. Yawn Valley Garden Market has been ongoing all summer and thanks are owed to many for making it successful (Susan Szpryka; Jamie Duvall and Risk Management; Judith Rice-Jones; Perrin Cunningham)
- ii. Green Action Fund has been very successful

h. Tom Huber:

- i. Formal trails will be developed and maintained as part of Rec Center expansion
- ii. GES faculty will have research projects related to erosion on campus

i. Janel Owens:

- i. Sonja Braun-Sand, PI, will be leading a new NSF-funded project, “Green Chemistry in Colorado,” an REU program.
- ii. NSF grant submitted this summer for TUES (Transforming Undergraduate Education in STEM) to focus on green chemistry and sustainability in chemistry and biochemistry.
- iii. Wants to resurrect Green the Labs program prior to arrival of NSF students.
- iv. New peer-reviewed journal in chemistry: *ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering*

III. Discussion of Gen Ed goals

A. Discussed how to incorporate sustainability into Gen Ed task force:

- i. Freshman Seminar?
- ii. Composition courses?
- iii. Writing portfolio?
- iv. Service learning?

Next meeting: Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 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!)