

Sustainability Committee Report

Date: September 9, 2013

Members Present: Linda Kogan, Kevin Gilford (Office of Sustainability), Carole Huber (Geography), Cynthia Norton (Environmental Health and Safety), Tracy Gonzalez-Padron (College of Business), Russell Saunkeah (Sodexo), Sara Santa Cruz (Student, SEAS), Nanna Meyer (Beth-El), and Janel Owens (Committee Chair, Chemistry and Biochemistry)

Visitors: David Weiss (Chemistry and Biochemistry, LAS) and Jeff Ferguson (Marketing, College of Business)

Meeting topics:

I. Welcome

II. General Education (GE) implementation plan

A. Last spring, the Sustainability Committee developed an approval sheet for identifying sustainability focused or related courses for the GE mapping team (David Havlick led this effort).

B. Visitors David Weiss and Jeff Ferguson described the need to create a process for approving the sustainability courses for the approved GE framework. Approval of such courses will begin shortly. The approval of such courses is a new process that will need to be developed and tweaked.

C. The approval of courses for sustainability is to be finished by the end of Fall semester 2013 to be ready for the Fall 2014 implementation and course catalog.

D. The Sustainability Committee will have a subcommittee of faculty members (though input by all members will be welcomed) with representatives from each college to work through the approval process. For courses that have been approved by the College's C&R committee, the sustainability course approval sheet is to be sent to David Weiss (dweiss@uccs.edu) and Janel Owens (jowens2@uccs.edu) for approval.

E. Committee members also voiced a desire to develop a training module for faculty to help them identify how the tenets of sustainability (economy, equity, and environment) could be implemented into existing courses.

III. Office of Sustainability News

A. Bike Jam (the start to the Bike Month Challenge) was wonderfully successful – thank you to all who participated! The Office encourages faculty, staff, and students to sign up at www.bikejournal.com under the club “UCCS 2013 Bike Month Challenge.” You can also develop teams (only 2 people required for a team).

B. Climate Advisory Board is being formed upon invitation from Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak. Members will include Cynthia Norton (Environmental Health & Safety), David Havlick (Geography), Janel Owens (Chemistry and Biochemistry), and Office of Sustainability Directors Linda Kogan and Kevin Gilford.

C. More sustainability events coming!

1. Adopt-a-waterway (Sept 27th)

2. Will start working on planning the Sustainnovation event (to be held in the first week of March). Faculty, staff, and students are welcome and invited to participate in planning and developing projects to be showcased at the second annual event. For information regarding last year’s Sustainnovation, please see: <http://www.uccs.edu/sustain/get-involved/sustainnovationmaster.html>

3. For faculty and students: please consider showcasing your research projects and materials at Sustainnovation in early March (exact date, time, location TBD). For information regarding last year’s posters, please see: <http://www.uccs.edu/sustain/sustainnovationresearch.html>

IV. SEAS and Green Action Fund

A. Student Farm Market from this summer was a great success. Thank you to Susan Szyrka for support.

B. SEAS and GAF are meeting with Freshman Seminar courses for the Take Back the Tap educational campaign. Freshman seminar students who are involved in the Take Back the Tap training will receive a free water bottle.

C. The GAF has approved two projects so far this year: planting of a Peace Tree and bike locks available for rent from the library. For more information about GAF, please see: www.uccs.edu/gaf

V. Sodexo

A. Squash, chilies, and tomatoes from the UCCS Greenhouse are now being featured in a new platform at Café 65 called, “Simple Servings.” This platform provides allergen-free and gluten-free options with vegan/vegetarian options on occasion.

B. Sodexo is also planning “A Better Tomorrow” challenge to focus on various topics:
<http://www.uccsdining.com/sustainability/index.html> Would like to partner with the
Office of Sustainability for Project Green (which will run the month of October).