

## ***Learning Green, Living Green* Steering Committee Meeting Notes Frostburg State University's Sustainability Initiative**

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

4:00pm – 6:00pm, President's Conference Room.

Members present: Joan Andorfer, Sydney Duncan, Skott Brill, Jason Litten, Patrick O'Brien, Bud Precht, Becca Ramspott, Lisa Rodgers, Jeff Sellers, Dana Severance, Bill Seddon, Hilkat Soysal, Oguz Soysal, Monika Urbanski, Sam White.

Members absent: Dave Arnold, Ray Blank, Mikal Crawford, Karla Diehl, Paul Kazyak, Elaine Raesly, Kara Rogers-Thomas, Alan Snyder, Ann Townsell, Karen Treber.

Guests: Students April Bernard and Dannielle Adekunle, Jeff and Jennifer from Aramark, Greg Capecchi from Edgewood Commons, Dave Rose from Administration and Finance.

### **MEETING AGENDA**

#### **A. Welcome, Announcements, and Updates**

- Welcome - Dr. Gibraltar welcomed the committee to the first meeting of the semester, thanking everyone for the accomplishments of the prior academic year. He looks forward to another great year.
- Going Green with Dr. G - Today's meeting was being filmed by mass communications student Christopher Landrum, who is developing a program on TV channel 3 entitled "Going Green with Dr. G".
- Status of Sustainability Coordinator - As of today, a partial hiring freeze will affect all USM institutions until further notice. Only essential positions will be filled. Dr. Gibraltar announced that this decision will affect the search for an FSU sustainability coordinator, which has been progressing well. The search committee has selected four finalists for the position. These finalists will be notified by Dr. Gibraltar that the search has been put on hold. Despite the delay, Dr. Gibraltar is still committed to hiring a sustainability coordinator.
- LGLG Leadership - The committee decided that in the absence of a sustainability coordinator, a group of committee members will meet as part of an executive team to facilitate meetings. These individuals include: Patrick O'Brien, Monika Urbanski, Joan Andorfer, and a representative from facilities (Ann Townsell and Kara Rogers Thomas, who were not present, volunteered their services at a later time).
- AASHE Conference - The Annual AASHE Conference is scheduled for November 9 – 12 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Dr. Gibraltar is looking to send 2-3 individuals to represent FSU, covering all expenses. Anyone interested should contact Monika Urbanski.

- $E = (LG)^2$  – Sydney Duncan and the ENGL 339 class are hard at work on the second edition of  $E = (LG)^2$ , the only known student-written, student-edited magazine on sustainability. Sydney asked LGLG faculty members and students to submit sustainability-themed works of non-fiction and photography as early as possible.
- Recycling Update - Dr. Gibraltar and Dave Rose of Administration and Finance are working to determine how much can be allocated towards the recycling proposal submitted last year. Considering the very recent budget constraints, we will have an update from them in a few weeks.
- LGLG Membership Status – Those members who did not attend today's meeting, and did not let us know in advance will be contacted to determine if they intend to serve on the LGLG committee for this academic year.

B. ACUPCC – The committee was briefed our standing with the American College and University President's Climate Commitment. As of now, we are in good standing:

- Last week, the university submitted its first greenhouse gas emissions inventory to the ACUPCC. FSU now has fiscal years 2006 and 2007 included in the inventory, and the data for 2008 will be uploaded by mid-October. The committee wishes to thank Ray Blank and Jon Diamond from Facilities for their work and dedication on this ongoing project.
- On September 15, 2009, FSU will submit a Climate Change Action Plan to the ACUPCC. This report will provide a target date for being carbon-neutral. Over the course of the semester, the LGLG committee will work to complete this report.
- Three Tangible Actions:
  1. 15 Percent Renewable Energy – FSU is now purchasing at least 15 percent of its energy from renewable sources.
  2. Waste Minimization – Last semester, FSU participated in Recyclemania, placing 22<sup>nd</sup> in the waste minimization category. With a revamped recycling plan, we hope to do even better. In addition, various units on campus are doing their parts by going paperless and encouraging recycling.
  3. ENERGYSTAR – The ENERGYSTAR statement that was proposed by the LGLG committee and presented to Executive Committee last semester was pulled due to "lack of teeth". Karen Treber will represent the LGLG committee in developing a revised statement that will have some impact on purchasing patterns by faculty, staff, and students at FSU.

C. Sustainability in the Curriculum – Sydney Duncan provided an overview of how sustainability is being added to the academic curriculum. Two committees have been formed. One will explore adding a sustainability minor and other components, while the other committee will explore integrating sustainability across the

curriculum. The curriculum committees request that someone at the university establish a formal definition of “sustainability”. Sydney indicated that a definition would help these committees move forward. This topic will be explored at subsequent meetings.

D. Focus the Nation – Committee members indicated that a second annual Focus the Nation program should be planned, partly due to the success of last year’s program. There will be some changes this year, due to the fact that *Focus the Nation* will not participate in national teach-in events. Instead, the program is titled *The National Teach-in on Global Warming Solutions*. We should keep in mind that the university can arrange for a teach-in that is independent to any organization. This would mean that it can be scheduled on a day of our choosing. A National Teach-in Subcommittee will be established to decide on these issues.

- Call for Participation – The following LGLG members volunteer to participate in planning the teach-in: Jeff Sellers, Patrick O’Brien, April Bernhard, Sydney Duncan, Hilkat Soysal, Sam White, and Bill Seddon.
- Becca Ramspott reminded the committee that any press releases related to the teach-in or other sustainability issues should arrive to her 2 weeks to 1 month before the event.

E. LGLG Achievements – We have done a great deal to be proud of. Now is a great time to get the word out. In order to attract new students, faculty, and staff who are proactive in sustainability issues, we need to get the word out and publicly celebrate our achievements. All members of the committee are encouraged to submit our school for nominations and accolades relating to sustainability.

F. Other Business:

- Patrick O’Brien indicated that FSU is again participating in Powershift this spring.
- Dr. Gibraltar is interested in learning whether our water consumption has decreased in recent years. We will follow up on this.
- Dr. Oguz Soysal and Hilkat Soysal provided information on a \$738,000 grant on a sustainable energy research facility. More on this can be found on the WISE web site, which is linked on the LGLG site.

G. Wrapping it up – The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm. The members of the executive team will meet to schedule the next meeting and to develop an agenda. Meetings will most likely be scheduled around 3:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.