

Green Campus Committee Meeting Notes October 15, 2007

Location: President's Conference Room

Time Allotted: 6pm – 8pm

Members Present: Dave Arnold, Ray Blank, Skott Brill, Karla Diehl, Sydney Duncan, Dave Firman (student), Jonathan Gibraltar, Jim Limbaugh, Jason Litten, Jeff McKinley (for Lisa Rodgers), Patrick O'Brien (student), Keramat Poorsoltan, Bud Precht, Becca Ramspott, Richard Scott (student), Bill Seddon, Jeff Sellers (student), Dana Severence, Alan Snyder, Oguz Soysal, Kara Rogers Thomas, Monika Urbanski, Sam White

Special Guest: Paul Kazyak

Members Absent: Mikal Crawford, Bob Larivee, Joan Andorfer

MEETING AGENDA

The first official meeting of the Sustainability Committee began at 6pm in the President's conference room on October 15, 2007. Dinner was followed by discussion based on the approved agenda.

- A. Notebooks were passed out and introductions were made.
- B. Jonathan Gibraltar made opening remarks, stating that the evidence for global warming has become increasingly strong. We must act now to make changes before damages become irreversible. The committee was given an overview of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) and what it means to FSU, including important deadlines we must follow to remain in good standing as charter members.
- C. Discussion of Comments and Concerns –
 1. Jim Limbaugh stated that recycling is a major concern because it is considered a first priority for most institutions, and is socially acceptable.
 2. Ray Blank stated that his first priority is energy reduction and conservation. He pointed out that since the deregulation movement, FSU's annual electric bill has nearly doubled (now almost \$2 million annually).
 - Jon Gibraltar brought up the idea of a centralized power location that provides flexible control – timed switches for various buildings and areas
 3. Keramat Poorsoltan stated that America's culture of waste and carelessness is a major issue to tackle. He pointed out that foreign policy has been adversely affected because we as a nation are so power-hungry.
 4. Dave Arnold was concerned about new construction for the future. FSU can become a sustainability model for others if we adopt a strict plan to build and renovate within sustainable standards. This led to an introduction on LEED certified construction.

- USM has mandated that all NEW construction and major renovations adopt LEED certification.
 - The Lane Center renovation plan would be considered a major renovation.
 - Dorm renovations (Sowers currently) are not considered major because they are not structural. However, HVAC renovations in dorms are made with energy efficiency in mind.
5. Student Richard Scott was most concerned with involving students in the sustainability movement. He recommended communicating with students early as part of the freshmen orientation program.
- Jim Limbaugh mentioned the potential for an IDIS Sustainability Certificate. He is discussing this with Joe Hoffman.
 - Jon Gibraltar emphasized that we must maintain focus on student learning.
6. Jason Litten mentioned that his main concern was the institutional budget, and how much we are capable of spending on sustainability initiatives.
- Jon Gibraltar responded that as long as sustainability works itself into the Strategic Plan for the University, the funding will become available.
 - Initially, we should focus on actions that will save money in the long-term – energy efficiency for example. More aggressive strategies can come later.
 - Bill Seddon mentioned that it might be worth considering raising student fees to offset higher construction costs. Richard Scott said that the interest will probably be there as long as students are fully aware of what their money will pay for. Telling students that other colleges and universities have done it may help.
7. A main concern for Becca Ramspott was our terminology for the initiative. Green Campus and Sustainability have been used interchangeably in the past.
- Jim Limbaugh explained that the term “green” is often used to describe building initiatives, whereas “sustainability” has to do with carbon neutrality and is considered more longterm.
- D. Next on the agenda was the selection of ACTION ITEMS: We decided on (at least) two items from the ACUPCC Implementation Guide, and will report them to ACUPCC by November 15. The emphasis here is on IMMEDIATE FOCUS. Just because an action item is not selected doesn't mean it will not become an important part of our efforts.
1. Green Building Policy – All new construction must be LEED Silver certified or greater
- Ray Blank stated that Lane Center renovation is the only short-term project that would be affected. For this, we need to allow for student input since students and alumni are funding the renovation project.

- For now, we can't move forward with this action without communicating with students, alumni, and the administration.
 - Task – Jim, Ray, Richard get together to determine feasibility of completing this action in the near future.
2. EnergyStar Procurement Policy
- Alan Snyder mentioned that enacting an EnergyStar procurement policy would not be very difficult to accomplish.
 - The main concern is communication and outreach. How do we educate the 200 procurement card-holders that they are expected to buy EnergyStar products and services?
 - Action plan – Initiate this strategy for now.
3. Air Travel Offsetting
- Ray Blank mentioned that the university logged 600,000 air miles last year. At the going rate of \$.25 per mile, we would have to offset \$150,000 annually.
 - We decided not to act on this action AT THIS TIME due to the cost associated.
 - Jason Litten asked whether the current vehicle reservation system is eco-friendly, providing car-pooling options. Many members provided examples showing that it is not. Updated software that would promote carpooling for faculty, staff, and student groups would be ideal.
4. Provision of Public Transportation – Encouraging use and providing access to faculty, staff, students, and visitors
- A more expanded public transportation system may not be feasible due to the rural setting of our campus, the ACT bus system is not viewed as highly user friendly based on limited hours, frequency of stops, and number of stops.
 - The ACUPCC does not require that Universities include faculty, staff, and student commutes to the emissions inventory, but recommends that they do so anyway.
 - FSU DOES include commutes in the emissions inventory.
 - Task – Communicate with ACT to determine feasibility of increasing routes/hours/stops.
 - Since we were unsure about the possibilities, the committee did not adopt this action for immediate implementation.
5. Green Power Production or Purchasing
- Ray Blank mentioned that the university is already planning to purchase 15% of its total power from renewable energy sources.

- This will come at an added cost of \$33,000 annually. Ray stated that he would love to find a way to fundraise a portion of this.
- The university already receives 4% of its energy from renewable resources through the current contract.
- Oguz Soysal stated that in terms of finances, it is more expensive to build a renewable energy system than to purchase renewable energy from a larger source.
- The energy generated by the WISE project can also be included, although this contribution is minimal.
- We could feasibly shoot for 20% of energy provided through renewable sources.
- We did adopt this action initiative.
- Task - Jason Litten will investigate feasibility of in-house solar panels and present to the committee at the next meeting.

6. Climate-Friendly Investing

- Committee members stated that we have a lack of information regarding the FSU endowment and climate friendly investment.
- Task - Jim Limbaugh will meet with Advancement members to investigate this topic and report at the next meeting.
- With lack of information, we didn't adopt this action.

7. Waste Minimization – FSU must participate in the Waste Minimization component of Recyclemania, plus three associated measures.

- This action was approved by Sustainability committee members. We will revisit this action with the Recycling committee and determine DEFINITELY whether we will implement this action at that time.

E. Special Guest Presentation – Paul Kazyak, MD DNR. Paul heads the Highlands Action Program. His initiatives include:

- “Growing Local” agriculture initiatives. He stated that this will eventually lead to more local jobs
- Construction and promotion of greenhouses, wind turbines, outdoor schools
- General Conservation
- Resource Recovery
- Social Marketing

Paul stated that there are partnership opportunities between FSU and the Office of Sustainability within the Dept. of Natural Resources. Paul was added as a permanent member of the Sustainability Committee following his presentation.

F. Sub-Committee Review - Committee members received a list of subcommittees within the sustainability initiative. Due to lack of time, we were unable to

discuss membership at the meeting. Please e-mail requests to Jim Limbaugh and Monika Urbanski.

- G. Special information on Academic Programs - Included in the notebook (salmon-colored paper) was a list of Programs and courses with an environmental or sustainability track. Please send corrections, revisions, and updates to Monika Urbanski. We will use this information to track achievements.
- H. Individual Actions – These are small steps that people can take that add up to large achievements if implemented consistently and by many people. We are developing a databank of individual actions so we can regularly add tips to websites and publications. Examples of individual actions should be sent to Monika Urbanski for the time being, until the Subcommittee for Individual Actions begins meeting.
- I. Immediate Actions for consideration
- Black-out Day on October 30 – FSU students are organizing Blackout Day in order to promote energy conservation. On October 30th, supporters will wear black t-shirts and will make conscious efforts to conserve energy. If possible, students, faculty members, and staff members are asked to turn off all power appliances and fixtures between 12pm and 1pm. Ray Blank mentioned that it may be possible to track how much energy is conserved on that day.
 - Becca Ramspott suggested adding a weekly tip to the FSU publication Statelines. She and Monika Urbanski will communicate on disseminating tips on individual actions for publication and media exposure.
 - Jim Limbaugh suggested getting stickers with energy saving tips, such as “Don’t forget to turn off lights when you leave the room” and develop a logo or slogan. Monika is following up.
 - Richard Scott wanted to see student groups collaborating on climate and sustainability issues. He recommends that FSU develop Matrix groups that consist of various parallel groups combined together for joint causes. Example: Student Senate and Sierra Club working on student policies that involve the climate. Other campuses have implemented this before. Mr. Scott will look into this further and bring ideas to the next meeting.
- J. Updates and Upcoming Events
- Maryland Students for Climate Change – Richard Scott and other FSU students are compiling signatures to support carbon neutrality at Maryland schools. A total of 13,000 MD signatures are needed, and FSU’s goal is 2,000 student, faculty, and staff signatures.
 - Powershift – The goal of this initiative is to bring sustainability on campuses to the forefront. Between November 3 – 5 2007, students from all over the country will travel to College park for a conference. On Monday the 5th, there will be massive lobbying on Capital Hill.
 - Focus the Nation – FSU is committed to hosting FTN, a national teach-in on January 31, 2008. We are currently developing a plan to engage faculty from

all departments to participate in the teach-in and encourage students to attend activities on that day.

- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory – Ray passed out the FSU GHG inventory. He stated that it is all inclusive and relatively accurate, indicating that the data is precise except for estimates for commute distances and fuel mileages.
- Website – We are in the process of developing a website for the Green Campus Initiative. Our goal is to have it up and running by the end of this week.

K. Establish a regular meeting time - Committee members have been asked to submit to Monika Urbanski times that they are and are not available to meet so we can establish regular meeting times that work for everyone.

L. The meeting was adjourned shortly after 8:00pm

M. Other Business – Discussions following adjournment

- “Walk to Work” and “Walk to Class” campaigns have been suggested to help promote campus awareness. Bud Precht suggested use of GIS facilities to develop a database of addresses (names excluded for the sake of privacy) of faculty/staff and students that live within 1.5 miles away.

ACTIONS FOR IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION

ACTION #2 Initiate action on EnergyStar Procurement Policy

ACTION #5 Initiate action on obtaining at least 15% of our energy from renewable sources

ACTION #7 Determine at next recycling meeting the feasibility of initiating action on waste minimization.

TASKS BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING

All

- Send Monika a copy of times you can or cannot be available for future meetings miurbanski@frostburg.edu.
- Look over the Subcommittee list. Request to be added to subcommittees (optional) or recruit others who might be interested.
- Take some time to think about individual actions (small steps that make big differences, especially when applied by many individuals).
- Ray Blank, Jim Limbaugh, Richard Scott: Research feasibility of LEED-certified Lane Center renovations.
- Jason Litten: Investigate and present feasibility of FSU-based solar panel installation on campus.
- Richard: Look into matrix/parallel groups at FSU.

- Jim: Communicate with Advancement regarding Climate-friendly investment.
- Monika: Follow up on stickers, logo, slogan.
- Monika: Request lists of addresses (names excluded) for faculty, staff, and students.
- Bud Precht: Work on compiling list of faculty and staff that live within 1.5 miles from campus.
- Communicate with ACT to determine feasibility of increasing routes/hours/stops