

Minutes
Sustainability Steering Committee
October 22, 2010

Attendance: Randy McCallister for John Albano, Steven Beach, Donald Bowman, Jorge Coartney, Dennis Grady, Pamela Simpkins, Richard Roth, Gabrielle Silvers, Julio Stephens, Debra Templeton, Mark Wagstaff, and Paul Ely for Roy Saville. Recorder: Sandra Steele

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by Chair Dennis Grady.

Minutes:

Minutes from the previous steering committee meeting (September 24, 2010) were approved as presented.

Working Group Reports:

Energy/Water Conservation and Use – Jorge Coartney

Jorge Coartney reported attending the Governor's Energy Conference the previous week. He reported that Virginia ranks number two for importing electrical power. The state of California was number one importing 34% of its electrical power. Jorge reported that Virginia needs to increase domestic energy production and depend less on imports. Coal and wind energy was discussed. Jorge took from the meeting that the key to reducing imports is to consider the feasibility for alternative energy sources in specific areas. The number one way to spend energy resources should be to improve efficiency.

Jorge discussed the Set Point Policy. He and Julio Stephens are continuing to work on this policy. The President's Cabinet reviewed the initial policy and had some concerns. Julio and Jorge are working on changes in the language initially presented. Afterwards, it will go back to the President's Cabinet. An energy usage report should be available in the next couple of months.

New Construction and Renovations – Paul Ely for Chair, Roy Saville

Paul Ely reported that they are finalizing the air and heat system controls for the new COBE building project. He believes a LEED Silver rating is solid. President Kyle has targeted a Gold rating.

Construction of a student recreation facility is expected to begin in the fall. The location has not been finalized but an area between the fine arts building and the student center is being considered. Also, several bid proposals for construction of the science building have been received. When a bid is selected it will be presented to Richmond for funding. Renovations to Madison and Jefferson Halls are also out for bid.

Measurement – Chair, Debra Templeton

Debra Templeton reported that the last piece of the student commuter survey is in process. The faculty and staff survey is complete. Results from both will be included in the Inventory Report. Dennis Grady asked if narrative or discussion for the general public could be available to include greenhouse numbers, and climate action number/plans.

Action Item: Debra and Julio will work on a preliminary narrative over the next three weeks.

Food Services – Pamela Simpkins

Pamela Simpkins reported that Food Services have been very busy. The 10-year contract with Pepsi ends July 31, 2011. Information Technology will be managing that contract in the future due to swipe card vending machine access. Dining Services will manage dining and cooler sales. An RFP for the contract will be issued in January 2011.

Action Item: Dennis Grady suggested that with the retirement of subcommittee Chair, Bill Dalton, that the Food Services Working Group be renamed the **Contract Working Group** and asked Pamela Simpkins to serve as chair.

Jorge Coartney reported that Food Services contracts are up for renewal in 2012 to include Dalton Hall and Chartwells. Currently, Radford University Dining Services pays for electricity for these vendors. A suggestion was made to charge for utilities in future contracts.

Investments – Chair, Steve Beach

Steve Beach reported that the working group met and is continuing to work on the development of investment policies. They are waiting for the outcome of SGA student fee funding.

Student Involvement - Gabrielle Silvers

Gabrielle Silvers reported that she and students will travel to DC for a green festival. It will be a learning experience for the students. There are many new members in the Environmental Club, many of which are freshman students. Gabrielle reported that the river cleanup project was a success. Many students participated. Gabrielle expressed a desire to form a president's round table discussion about science and environmental issues with the goal to get student's to "think outside the box" beyond college life. A project to repair the boat dock at Selu was suggested with some available funding. Information was given to Gabrielle. The application deadline for the funding is November 1st. Gabrielle discussed Earth Day plans and a benefit dinner to raise funds as a precursor to green initiatives.

Public Awareness – Chair, Don Bowman

The Campus Conservation Nationals are coming up and a story on building automation is forthcoming. Don reported that Julio and Stan have done a good job in providing information for articles.

Curriculum – Chair, Mark Wagstaff

Mark Wagstaff reported that the subcommittee met last Friday and put the final touches on the certificate in Environmental Sustainability. Rick Roth passed the proposal along to the department chair for the curriculum review process.

Action Item: Mark will send the revised version to Dennis Grady to share with the Sustainability Committee. Students can choose from over thirty multidisciplinary courses.

Information Technology – Randy McCallister for Chair, John Albano

Randy McCallister reported that the printer/multi-function copier project is ongoing. Information Technology is working to reduce the number of servers. Further development of electronic classrooms is also being reviewed.

Other:

The next meeting is Monday, November 22nd at 3:00 pm in Heth 044. Items for the agenda will include; the Greenhouse Gas Report, and Climate Action Plan. Dennis Grady noted that of the 300 schools represented at the AASHE conference many are doing a Climate Action Plan, he feels Radford University is in the top 40-50. He added that the plan should be done by the university community rather than turning it over entirely to consultants.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.