

**Minutes  
Sustainability Steering Committee  
February 18, 2011**

Attendance: John Albano, Dennis Grady, Pamela Simpkins, Richard Roth, Scott Shaffer, Julio Stephens, Debra Templeton, Mark Wagstaff. Recorder: Sandra Steele

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm in Heth 044 by Chair, Dennis Grady. A quorum was determined.

**Minutes:**

Minutes from the previous steering committee meeting (January 14, 2011) were approved as presented with a minor typographical correction.

**Working Group Reports:**

**Curriculum - Chair, Mark Wagstaff**

Mark Wagstaff reported that the curriculum committee has been very busy. He stated that he is hoping the Environmental Sustainability certificate will get through the approval process this semester. It is at the college level now and a meeting is scheduled next week. New to the committee are e-topic themes. Holly Cline and Rick Roth gave presentations for sustainability at the QEP forums.

**Food Services – Pamela Simpkins**

Pamela Simpkins reported that the beverage contract RFP will be issued and sustainability initiatives are a part of the contract. The new contract will begin July or August 1<sup>st</sup> for ten years. Pam reported that a bid was recently awarded to replace ten chillers on campus. The contract includes different price options, more energy efficiency, and magnetic chillers. A bid for the Student Counseling and Health Center contract has also been issued. Carilion was awarded the former contract, but other agencies have expressed an interest in the new contract. With recent ETF funding expenditures other bids are developing.

**Information Technology – Chair, John Albano**

John Albano reported that a new pilot system has been loaded on thirty faculty computers on campus. The system manages power settings and a baseline is being established from collected data. There are approximately 3500 University owned computers.

### **Recent Activities – Julio Stephens:**

The Energy Star rating has been awarded to three additional buildings on campus. Julio hopes to get the plaques displayed on Monday. Information will be released on Earth Day. An abstract of RU's Digital Sub-metering and Energy/Water Competition was accepted for presentation at the VMI Environment Virginia Conference. RU Homecoming included zero waste events. A barbeque bash and Christies celebration will involve compostable or recyclable materials, e.g., 98% trash and 99% other. Table tents and signage conveyed the zero waste theme. A movie, "Electricity Fairy", and question answer session will take place on February 24, 2011. The movie is a documentary about coal power plants in Wise County. The director of the movie will be available on the 24<sup>th</sup> to answer questions. Earth Day planning has begun. Representatives from the Environmental Club, Wildlife Club, and ESHE were contacted. Rick Roth suggested that the City of Radford be contacted for Earth Day. RecycleMania is in the third week of ten weeks. Julio reported that it is going well and information is being provided to students. The Greenhouse Gas Narrative and Sustainability Report have been delivered to the Board of Visitors.

### **Climate Action Plan – Julio Stephens:**

Julio Stephens reported that the next big step in the President's Climate Commitment is to determine how to get to carbon neutrality and details of the carbon footprint. An RFP was issued Sunday to help in the Climate Action Plan process. The award will get information around campus, help with Greenhouse Gas mitigation strategies and support variables, and aid in research and education in other areas provided by faculty and staff. Julio distributed a handout of fifty statistics commonly identified. In the award process the University will determine what is best for Radford University, and how to move toward carbon neutrality. The actual deadline is January 15, 2012. Julio stated that preliminarily the Steering Committee focused on an academic year, but suggested a four month extension would provide more time to revise and adopt the plan. There is no cost to apply for an extension. An extension to May 12, 2012 would allow four months to launch with implementation in Fall 2012.

Dennis Grady stated that a month from now possibly three to four companies may bid on the contract and suggested that the selection committee be identified early on. Pam Simpkins stated that the committee would be selected in Roy Saville's area. Dennis Grady suggested that community representation be included on the selection committee. The award should result in professional assistance to the Steering Committee in April or May, 2011.

**ACTION:** Dennis Grady recommended that Julio Stephens be on the RFP selection committee. Dennis Grady will email Roy Saville and request that the selection committee process begin as soon as possible and include Julio Stephens as a member.

Julio reported for Taylor Williams, the new President of the Environmental Club, who was unable to attend the meeting. He discussed the 20<sup>th</sup> celebration of Earth Day April 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Security** – Chair, Scott Shaffer – No report.

**Other:**

John Albano suggested the use of video conferencing to teleconference in Sustainability Steering Committee member, Lauren Breakell from Roanoke, in future meetings. He suggested using PolyCom in Roanoke or Skype, involving a monitor, computer, and special microphone.

**ACTION:** Dennis Grady will contact Lauren and provide the virtual, green, alternative to driving to Radford. John Albano volunteered to set it up and be available to Lauren to implement.

Debra Templeton stated that Julio Stephens did a fantastic job presenting sustainability at a recent Faculty Senate meeting. She suggested that Ellen Taylor be invited to replace Kathy Jordan on the Sustainability Steering Committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in Heth 044.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.