

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

Attendance: John Albano, Steven Beach, Donald Bowman, Dennis Grady, Pamela Simpkins, Julio Stephens, Debra Templeton, Joe Rudolph, Michael Slate for Debra Templeton.  
Guest: Teresa Anders. 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. Pam Simpkins introduced Teresa Anders, Assistant Director of Materials Management and Contracts. Julio Stephens introduced Joe Rudolph, Vice President of the Environmental Club.

**Minutes:**

Minutes from the previous steering committee meeting (February 18, 2011) were approved as presented to include further revisions presented in track changes.

**Working Group Reports:**

**Environmental Club** – Joe Rudolph, Vice President of the RU Environmental Club reported that Science Exploration Day is March 26<sup>th</sup>. The club will be doing science related work with boys and girls working toward merit badges in environmental science. Joe discussed Earth Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Radford University will celebrate Earth Day with activities on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be information provided by clubs and organizations, community activism, a geospatial award for optical sensory, a sustainability award sponsored by Staff Senate, etc.,. Some activities will include a tree planting ceremony, presentation of an Energy Star building plaque (Heth), performance of local bands, a couple of RU ceramic guild organizations will be selling items, and a rock climbing wall will be available. Food vendors and merchants primarily from Main Street will also participate.

**Investments - Chair, Steve Beach**

Steve Beach reported that he is working on new strategy regarding the student activity fee.

**Food Services – Pamela Simpkins**

Pamela Simpkins reported that she is continuing to process purchases for year-end. Things are moving slow but are on target to meet deadlines. Pam stated that she is keeping sustainability initiatives in year-end discussions.

**Information Technology – Chair, John Albano**

John reported that IT Services continues to monitor computer installations for energy efficiency purposes.

**Curriculum** – Dennis Grady reported for Rick Roth and Mark Wagstaff regarding the Certificate of Environmental Studies. The proposal has been approved on the college level and has gone onto Faculty Senate. It should be finalized in time to advertise during Quest. Rick Roth will be the coordinator of the program certificate.

**Energy/Water Conservation and Use** – Julio Stephens provided an update for Jorge Coartney who was unable to attend the meeting. Bids were received March 4<sup>th</sup> for the ESCO process. In this process a sampling of energy findings in six buildings on campus was reviewed (Muse, Porterfield, McConnell, Dalton, Preston, & Dedmon). These buildings were selected as a representative sample of buildings on campus. Interviews will begin next week.

### **Earth Day and Climate Action Plan – Julio Stephens:**

Julio reported that he met with the City of Radford to discuss Earth Day. A calendar of city activities is being drafted to include, a Shred-A-Thon, public library events, Clean with the Dean Day, Arbor Day, Prescription Take Back Day, Earth Day, etc.

**ACTION:** Julio will send the calendar to Sandy Steele to email to the Steering Committee

Julio Stephens reported that the interview committee for the Climate Action Plan was approved by President Kyle. Committee members are Dennis Grady, Joe Rudolph, Steve Beach, Rick Roth, Roy Saville, and Julio Stephens. Proposals are due on Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Our Turn in May will include a visit to ACME Panel, Co., in Radford.

Julio Stephens reported that he will be giving an Environmental Virginia Symposium presentation next month. On Tuesday he gave a tour to a Roanoke College class where he explained that RU is in the process of updating its Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Roanoke College was happy to learn about this and employ similar strategies on their campus.

Recyclable gowns are being provided by a local company for commencement.

### **Transportation Initiatives – Julio Stephens:**

The City of Radford is currently working to update the public transit system. An RFP is in process. The deadline is next week and it is hoped to get vendors on board, and buses in during the summer. A target date to have it up and running is late summer or early fall. Julio Stephens suggested this might be a good time to revisit a car-share program. Basically, employees and faculty car-sharing would be able to reserve a car to go to appointments during the day for only an hourly rate or mileage rate. The program is basically considered a zero dollar contract with no downside except marketing costs and two parking spaces. By car-sharing parking, congestion

would be reduced. Virginia Tech has a fleet of five vehicles obtained since implementation two years ago. Julio suggested doing an RFP targeting implementation in the fall.

Julio discussed a car-pooling matching program that would provide a guaranteed ride home to participants due to sickness and other unexpected obligations. Information about a similar program, *Ride Solutions*, was presented. Discussion followed.

**ACTION:** A motion was made to create an alternative transportation package to minimize individual commuting costs and collective environmental and degradation costs. Steve Beach asked about plans for a regional transit system and a van pooling program. Julio suggested tying a car-share program concurrently with the City of Radford's updated transit system in the fall. The motion was amended adding RFPs for a carpool matching program, and car-share program. The motion was seconded, and was carried by consensus.

Dennis Grady asked for volunteers to work on an alternative transportation package. Don Bowman, Julio Stephens and Dennis Grady volunteered. Pam Simpkins will research similar RFPs and the data impact at other institutions. Julio Stephens will contact other organizations.

#### **Other:**

**New Staff Senate Award** - Dennis Grady asked Sandy Steele to report on behalf of Staff Senate. Staff Senate is working on an award to honor and recognize an employee who exemplifies sustainability initiatives at Radford University. Criteria for the award is based on one or more of the following; energy and water conservation, waste reduction/recycling, economic impact, behavior change and/or awareness, or other sustainability initiatives. Forthcoming information will be included in RU Today, on the Staff Senate website and Facebook page, be linked to the Sustainability website, and communicated via Staff Senate LISTSERV. Additional information will be provided during RU Earth Day celebration on April 20<sup>th</sup>. The award will be presented at the annual staff picnic on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

Based on discussions with Joe Rudolph, Dennis Grady will check with President Kyle about a time for the tree planting ceremony at the Earth Day celebration on April 20<sup>th</sup>. A suggested time was 3:00 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in Heth 044.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.