

Radford University
Sustainability Steering Committee
Minutes – March 5, 2010

Present: Dennis Grady, Chair; Steven Beach; Don Bowman; Bill Dalton; Kathy Jordan; Lisa McDaniel for John Albano; Richard Roth; Gabrielle Silvers; Julio Stephens; Debra Templeton; Gary Tilley; Mark Wagstaff. **Recorder:** Sandra Steele

Green Initiatives: Gabrielle Silvers gave the steering committee an update on student green initiatives. A revised green fee proposal was taken to SGA for discussion. Getting the proposal on the ballot for a vote and implementation was discussed. The next meeting will be held the first Monday after spring break. If the SGA recommends the initiative, it will move forward in the approval process. A fee of \$5 per semester is being considered. The average fee at other universities is \$10. There will be more discussions to work out fee allocations with emphasis given to investments, student projects, and research.

Earth Day is coming up April 22nd. There are plans to include green campaign initiatives in these efforts. There will be speakers, music, and videos focusing on education awareness and community involvement. Gabrielle Silvers will work with Julio Stephens to include student activities.

President Kyle and Dennis Grady will provide remarks at the Opening Ceremony at 2 pm. The Biology Department will hold a tour of campus trees.

Julio Stephens discussed city events during the month of April, e.g., e-waste, hazardous housing, shred-a-thon, and pharmacy drug take back (fall only). Events previously held at Radford High School in the past may take place this year on the lower lot of the Dedmon Center.

Gabrielle Silvers reported that *Bonnie Days* will be held April 12-15th. President Kyle was invited to provide opening remarks. Gabrielle Silvers asked if a green initiative proclamation could be tied in with the Centennial Celebration.

ACTION: Gabrielle Silvers will send Dennis Grady the green fee proposal to share with the steering committee. Dennis Grady will draft proclamation remarks for President Kyle.

Minutes:

Minutes from the previous steering committee meeting (January 21, 2010) were approved as presented. Dennis Grady reported that in follow-up regarding an action item from the last meeting Kathy Jordan was invited to attend future meetings to provide information about green jobs.

Report from Julio Stephens – Sustainability Coordinator:

Julio Stephens reported that green initiatives are being included in faculty, staff, and student orientation programs.

Julio Stephens discussed the American College and University's President's Climate Commitment (*ACUPCC*). Radford University's profile is due March 15th. Julio presented a link to the profile for steering committee feedback. The next step is to submit the Greenhouse Gas Inventory by the January 15, 2011 deadline.

ACTION: A motion was made, seconded and approved by consensus for Julio Stephens to submit the ACUPCC profile as presented.

Discussion followed regarding a proposed budget for the Sustainability Coordinator to operate, e.g., organizational membership such as AASHE; attendance at sustainability related conferences; purchases for freshman orientation, etc.

ACTION: A motion was made, seconded, and approved by consensus for there to be an established sustainability budget to allow the coordinator to travel, pay annual memberships, and other ongoing sustainability expenses for the University.

Julio Stephens reported that a survey for the Sierra Club is due March 20th. Information for the survey was requested for several of the areas.

Julio Stephens will be speaking on sustainability at a Radford Rotary Club meeting on St. Patrick's Day.

Recycling efforts continue. Some percentages increased compared to the same time last year. *RecycleMania* started January 17 and ends March 27. An article was published in the New River Current about a reduction of the amount of waste at Radford University. Radford University was included in the top 10 schools in Virginia experiencing waste minimization. The composting contract for Radford University was recently approved. The same company will be used in the fall. Approximately 700 pounds a day is diverted from the landfill.

ACTION: There was a recommendation that Chartwells receive appropriate acknowledgement for composting efforts.

Working Group Reports:

Grounds/Habitats – Chair, Rick Roth

Rick Roth reported that he and Jorge Courtney have had a difficult time getting the working group together. He and Jorge Courtney met and they are looking at a storm water project involving two students in a capstone class. Jorge Courtney is looking into how to handle and improve the use of storm water. There may be a future presentation to the Steering Committee. Gabrielle Silvers suggested that the students might want to set up a table at Earth Day activities.

Curriculum - Chair, Mark Wagstaff

Mark Wagstaff reported that working group has divided into two sub-groups. One group will be working with New Student Programs and University 100 to develop a class module for sustainability, assist with the speaker series, and develop a certificate program (15-18 hours of courses that lead to the attainment of a specific course set). Dennis Grady noted that certificates are approved internally through the regular curricular process. Any new courses would require the approval of individual course proposals. Mark Wagstaff stated that courses for a sustainability certificate might include topics in sustainability leadership, advocacy, education, and possibly a foundations course. Steven Beach suggested checking to see if there are any sustainability courses already being offered in the community college setting. Discussion followed regarding training teachers for sustainability coursework/certificates, and if there might be more than one sustainability certificate.

ACTION: Julio Stephens will look into courses offered at the community colleges. Mark Wagstaff will work to develop 5-6 courses for a sustainability certificate. Lisa McDaniel located storm water courses available at community colleges and will send the web link to Mark Wagstaff.

Investments – Chair, Steven Beach

Steven Beach reported that he met with Robyn Porterfield, Director of Radford University Corporate and Foundation Advancement, and Dale Lee, Vice President, RGC Resources, Inc., and a member of the City of Roanoke Clean & Green Business Coalition, about the efforts of the Sustainability Steering Committee and the possible Sustainable Investments Fund. Dale is a Radford University Alumni. A meeting is scheduled with Dale Lee, Robyn Porterfield, and Stanley Breakell, CEO Breakell, Inc. General Contractors. A sub-group of the working group has been formed to develop investment policies and procedures to include allocations of funding for the proposed green fund, and other investments. Discussion followed. The consensus of the steering committee was to get involved with the City of Roanoke Clean & Green Business Coalition. An application for membership is available through the Roanoke Chamber of Commerce at a cost of \$100.

ACTION: A motion was made, seconded and approved by consensus to join the City of Roanoke Clean & Green Business Coalition. Julio Stephens will follow-up.

Technology – Chair, John Albano

Lisa McDaniel reported for John Albano who was unable to attend the meeting. Approval is being sought from administration to bundle the purchase of monitors and computers to replace older monitors as an energy savings.

Public Awareness – Chair, Don Bowman

Don Bowman reported that he is following *RecycleMania*, and will be working with Gabrielle Silvers to cover student green initiatives.

Purchasing – Chair, Gary Tilley

There have been no complaints since the implementation of using at least 30% recycled paper products. Vendors Guy Brown and the Supply Room have been very conscientious of this policy. There was a recommendation to follow-up on a suggestion from previous meetings requiring vendors to report on green initiatives used in serving their customers.

ACTION: Gary Tilley will follow-up on this and report at a future meeting.

Measurement – Chair, Debra Templeton

Debra Templeton reported that procurement measures were taken by using 75,000 pages of recycled paper for faculty evaluations.

Recycling – Julio Stephens

Building on orientation activities, a small brochure is being developed for students that will include green tips. A couple of Residential Directors have contacted Julio Stephens to share information about green initiatives.

ACTION: Dennis Grady will contact Angela Ward or set up a meeting to learn more residential student involvement.

Other:

Next Meeting - The steering committee established a date for the next meeting, April 2, 2010. The meeting will be held at 10:00 am in Heth 044.