

**Minutes  
Sustainability Steering Committee  
April 15, 2011**

Attendance: John Albano, Donald Bowman, Jorge Coartney, Dennis Grady, Pamela Simpkins, Richard Roth, Roy Saville, Julio Stephens, 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 (March 18, 2011) were approved as presented.

**Working Group Reports:**

**Curriculum - Chair, Mark Wagstaff**

Mark Wagstaff reported that the Certificate of Environmental Studies has been approved by Faculty Senate, and is now going through the catalog and curriculum review process. The certificate proposal is on the curriculum committee agenda for April 30<sup>th</sup>. If approved, the proposal will be submitted to the Provost's office. The committee meets next week to evaluate the University 100 module.

**New Construction and Renovations – Chair, Roy Saville**

Roy Saville reported that the committee met last month. The new COBE building is progressing with two parts already at Gold LEED certification. The building is online for completion for Fall 2012. Madison and Jefferson Hall renovations are leaning towards a strong Silver LEED certification. Plans for the fitness building are for Silver LEED certification. Moffett Hall is planned for Gold LEED certification with the science building planned for Silver LEED certification. Roy reported that storm water projects were taken out of the 2011-2012 budget.

**Public Awareness – Chair, Don Bowman**

Don Bowman reported that he has been working on Earth Day articles with Joe Rudolph, Vice President of the Environmental Club. A plaque or award for “green” students is planned. Rick Roth volunteered to provide wording for the certificates. Jorge Coartney suggested making frames for certificates from recycled bench wood from campus. A third frame will be made for the Keep ‘n It Green Award.

**Grounds/Habitats** – Chair, Rick Roth

Rick Roth reported faculty research grant funding was used for a balloon to do aerial micro-mapping. There will be a press release about this RU geospatial science project next week.

**Technology** – Chair, John Albano

John Albano reported that Information Technology is in the process of moving all student emails to a hosted site. Targeted completion is the end of summer 2011. Lab paper use is about the same.

ACTION: John Albano will provide paper use data at a future meeting.

**Food Services/Contracts** – Chair, Pamela Simpkins

Pam Simpkins reported that the RFP is due back for the beverage contract April 20<sup>th</sup>. The new contract will be in place July 1<sup>st</sup>. Sustainability language was included in the RFP. A dining services RFP is now in the works with the end of April targeted for completion. The current contract expires July 2012.

ACTION: Pam Simpkins will send a copy to Julio Stephens.

**Energy/Water Conservation and Use** – Chair, Jorge Coartney

Jorge Coartney reported that facilities purchased nine chillers and has replaced two of them to-date. One of the new chillers is a magnetic bearing chiller. It uses 25-30% less energy than current chillers. Seventy-five percent of the controls project updating to digital HVAC equipment is complete. Jorge Coartney suggested that the Sustainability Steering Committee look at a University shredding contract; digitizing information; or offsite storage. Right now all the storage on campus would be equivalent to one building. Different standards and rules for shredding and file storage are being used on campus currently.

ACTION: Pam Simpkins suggested putting the issue out for discussion. She will explore options.

Jorge Coartney suggested looking at STARS (Sustainability Track and Report System) rating system because it is the most objective and comparable across campuses. Discussion followed. Julio Stephens stated that the cost to get involved with STARS is approximately \$800. It would take a year to gather information for submission. The rating is good for three years. It was noted that ASHE E lists STARS schools, levels, etc.

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

Julio Stephens reported that three one-hour workshops will be held on Thursday, April 28, from noon to 3 p.m. in Rooms 249 and 250 of the Hurlburt Student Center to solicit stakeholder input as RU prepares to develop its Climate Action Plan (CAP). The workshops will be open to students, faculty, staff, and others that are interested in the development of the CAP. The workshops will feature presentations on the CAP planning process, environmental issues, and university efforts toward carbon neutrality as well as discussions during which ideas and suggestions can be offered.

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

Julio reported that there was no new progress on the transportation initiatives.

### **Other:**

Richard Roth announced that a joint application between the National Committee for the New River, Radford University, and Appalachian State University was submitted to the National Science Foundation to fund flood mitigation.

It was noted that information is being presented every Thursday afternoon during Quest. The environmental club was approached. Mark Wagstaff and Richard Roth are scheduled to speak this week.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm.