

Minutes
Sustainability Steering Committee
September 24, 2010

Attendance: John Albano, Steven Beach, Jorge Courtney, Dennis Grady, Pamela Simpkins, Lennie Scott-Webber, Julio Stephens, Debra Templeton, Mark Wagstaff, Joseph Rudolph and Taylor Hardwick (for Gabrielle Silvers) and Bill Kovarik.

Call to Order:

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

Introductions:

This being the first meeting of the year, members introduced themselves and identified their role at the University.

Old Business:

Dennis Grady discussed the organization of the Working Groups and offered these modifications for the upcoming year:

Operations: (to include the former separate Grounds, Recycling, Energy, and Transportation Working Groups). Since all of these functions are under the responsibility of the Division of Facilities Management, consolidation under one chair rather than having the same chair for the separate Working Groups makes more sense. Chair – Jorge Courtney

Construction and Renovations: Co-chairs – Roy Saville and Lennie Scott-Webber

Measurement: Chair – Debra Templeton

Food Services: Chair – vacant

Investments: Chair – Steven Beach

Student Involvement: Chair-Gabrielle Silvers

Public Relations: Chair-Don Bowman

Curriculum: Chair – Mark Wagstaff

Information Technology: Chair – John Albano

Reports:

Jorge Courtney reported that RU was the first campus in the Commonwealth to be totally digitally metered for electricity, steam, and water usage. This is a big step forward in that now we can track each building's electrical, steam, and water consumption and assess usage patterns and potential leaks. This will allow us to develop strategies to decrease water consumption building by building.

Lennie Scott-Webber reported that two design students worked in the Facility Planning and Construction office over the summer as interns. Their project was to work on design standards, specifically CSI#s 9 and 12.

Debra Templeton reported that progress was made over the summer on the GHG inventory that needs to be completed by January as part of our agreement in the President's Climate Commitment. Most of the data should be put in the spreadsheet within the next several weeks.

Steven Beach reported that he had met with the RU Foundation investment group. They are willing to match some portion of funds provided through a student fee that would be used to invest in green companies.

Joseph Rudolph reported that once again this year, the Environmental Club is very active. They will be doing a river clean-up on Oct. 10 as part of a national 350 Group activity. They are also heavily engage in the October 18 – 22 Sustainability week of events.

Mark Wagstaff reported that the Curriculum Committee had put together a draft undergraduate certificate program in sustainability and would be pushing it through the curricular channels over the next several months. They have also, with Julio Stephens' help, developed a sustainability module that University 100 classes can incorporate. The target for launching that module is during the October Sustainability week.

John Albano reported that his office was in the process of installing new printer/copier/fax machines (Bizhubs) that were greatly more energy and cost efficient than almost all of the existing printers or copiers across campus. Departments should soon see their printing and copying costs decrease.

New Business:

Bill Kovarik has been working with Julio Stephens and Dennis Grady over the summer on the Committee's Second Annual Report to the President. He passed out a draft that contained more graphics and pictures than the previous report. It focuses on student involvement, faculty accomplishments, and sustainable operations. He urged each member of the Committee to look it over carefully and get comments back to him as soon as possible.

Julio Stephens reported that Bernd Kuennecke had conducted a green space study over the summer to assess how much permeable surface the campus contained. A map and statistics were

distributed as part of the Second Annual Report. He also reported that the composting of the Dalton food court was continuing and was recycling about 700 lbs. of food waste a day.

Dennis Grady reported that the President was interested in making the Committee a formal part of the governance structure of the University. The Committee would report to the President's Office given its composition. The proposed composition would include the directors of the departments of Facilities Management, Facilities Planning and Construction, Institutional Research, University Relations, Technology Support Services, Materials Management and Contracts, the Dean of Students, five faculty, two students, one dean, with the Sustainability Coordinator staffing the Committee. Dennis Grady will start the process of getting the Committee formally recognized.

Julio Stephens reported on the Sustainability Week events and the Campus Conservation Nationals of which RU is a participant this year.

Committee members asked Grady to invite the new VP for Student Affairs, Mark Shanley to an upcoming meeting. He was also tasked with determining a calendar for future meetings over the year.

The dates identified are

October 22

November 22

January 14

February 18

March 18

April 15

All meeting times at 3:00 pm in room 044 Heth

The meeting adjourned at 3:30.