Campus Sustainability Committee  
September 21, 2011  
BCC 200  
1-3 pm

Members present: Jim Biardi, Joe Bouchard, Tom Curran, David Downie, Jim Fitzpatrick, Dina Franceschi, David Frassinelli, Arturo Jaras-Watts, Jen Klug, Terry O’Brien, Ophelie Rowe-Allen, Jim Simon

Marketing and Communications liaison: Meg McCaffrey

Visitors: Dana August, Shannon Dematteo, Zach Gross, Keith Stetson, Meredith Smith

1) Announcements

Introduction of new members – there were no new members to introduce. Jen Klug said that it is likely that the faculty membership will change once the faculty Committee on Committees meets to appoint members to the Faculty Committee on Sustainability (FCS). The FCS will elect the four faculty representatives to the CSC. In a typical year, the FCS membership will be set in May rather that September.

Jen Klug announced that there will be a Garden Open House on Sept. 27 from 4-5:30.

Jim Fitzpatrick announced that the Coca-Cola recycling vehicle will be on campus Oct. 6 in the traffic circle.

2) Review of past minutes – there were no corrections or additions. Jen Klug said based on past discussions that she would send minutes to the President, the secretary of the General Faculty, all Vice Presidents, LEAF, the chair of the Academic Council, the Mirror and the FUSA president. She asked for other suggestions. Meg McCaffrey suggested Meredith Guinness (Campus Currents editor) and Alistair Highet who handles alumni communications. Jim Fitzpatrick said it should go to the Student Senate president as well as FUSA president. Jim Simon suggested it go to the news editor of the Mirror, the HAM channel, and all of the Deans. David Frassinelli said that our charge stipulates that the minutes be posted on the University’s website. Jim Fitzpatrick will talk to the appropriate web management people to find out where we can post the minutes.

3) Facilities management summer update

David Frassinelli reported that the new residence halls and the associated landscaping have been completed. In the process, many sodium lights were replaced with LEDs which are now the campus standard. Joe Bouchard mentioned that there is a new regenerating elevator in Campion. Some of the money to install it came from UI and it uses 49% less electricity than a regular elevator. Dina Franceschi asked for a summary of impacts to campus natural areas over the summer. David Frassinelli reported that there was not supposed to be any but there was an unfortunate situation when the sidewalks between the Quick Center and the library were put in. Some trees were cut down to facilitate the new lights. David Frassinelli said that Jen Klug called him and he came down and stopped the clearing. Plans were changed to avoid any more clearing. David Frassinelli said that he made it clear to staff involved in projects that any tree clearing needs to be discussed. Terry O’Brien asked whether the Dashboards were up and running. David Frassinelli said that they are on but are not working correctly yet. He is still working with CNS and the vendor on appropriate programming. He will keep us updated. Once working, the Dashboards will report cooling BTUs, heating BTUs, and electricity. Ophelie Rowe-Allen asked whether the dashboards can be used for other purposes, for example, to post events etc. She said they are trying to reduce the number of flyers in the residence halls and the computer screens for the Dashboards are in convenient locations. David Frassinelli said that with the current programming, they cannot be used for announcements. There was discussion about how to reduce the number of flyers in the residence halls.
4) Single stream recycling update

Dana August reported on progress with the change to a single stream recycling system. She said it is going pretty well. Every classroom and academic office should have a bin. Biggest issues are food contamination and recyclables in plastic bags (not allowed). Joe Bouchard said the recycling dumpsters are too similar to the trash dumpsters and asked whether it would be ok to paint the recycling dumpsters blue to distinguish. David Frassinelli said we’d have to check with the hauling company (Winter Brothers). Keith Stetson asked whether the library could get more bins. Dana August will work with Keith Stetson directly. David Frassinelli said that Peter Crowley, the new Director of Operations, has reduced the number of pickups because the trash dumpsters are not full every day. This reduces cost but also has an impact on our carbon footprint. Dina Franceschi asked how move-in went with regards to excess cardboard being placed in the trash. Ophelie Rowe-Allen said that it was better but still a problem. Dana August, Zach Gross, and Victoria Doloff are working with ABM to see how to increase recycling compliance. They said that ABM employees are the ones who can tell them which buildings have the most contamination etc.

5) Campus Sustainability Plan – Jim Biardi

Jim Biardi briefly described the CSP. He said that we have a template and have split into subcommittees. We have not decided what it means to have a final plan. We don’t know who will sign off on the final plan. There was discussion of what others schools have done. It is not uncommon for the President of the University to write a preface to the plan. Subcommittee composition was discussed. Dina Franceschi listed the membership of the subcommittees on the white board. The Landscaping committee consists of David Frassinelli, Jen Klug, Tod Osier, Tom Curran, and Terry O’Brien. The Waste Management committee consists of Joe Bouchard, Ophelie Rowe-Allen, Arturo Jaras-Watts, Victoria Dolloff, and Dana August. The Operations committee consists of Jim Fitzpatrick, Tom Curran, Meg McCaffrey, and Terry O’Brien. The Student Engagement committee consists of Ophelie Rowe-Allen, Dana August, and Arturo Jaras-Watts. Meredith Smith was added to the Student Engagement subcommittee. The Academics subcommittee consists of David Downie and Jim Simon. The Energy subcommittee consists of David Frassinelli, Dana August, Dina Franceschi, and Kraig Steffen. The Finance subcommittee membership was discussed. Chris Laria is a senior who was working on Finance issues this past summer. Shannon Dematteo is a senior who would like to address finance issues as part of David Downie’s Environment Workshop course. David Downie said that he would be on the committee but could not chair it. Jim Biardi asked that all subcommittees have a draft done by Dec. 14. He will then assemble the draft and distribute the entire plan to the committee by mid February with a goal of having a reasonable draft done by Earth Day 2012. David Downie said that if this is to be a serious plan that includes more than just generalities than a draft can’t be done by Dec. 14. Jim Biardi said that he will send out the template we’ve agreed on and handle all communications related to the CSP.

6) New business

Arturo Jaras-Watts asked whether we could get more of the light switch stickers that encourage people to turn lights off. David Frassinelli said that he is currently working on an energy reduction plan that will be tied to a communication plan. Turning lights off will be part of that plan.

Catholic Climate Covenant – There was brief discussion of the Catholic Climate Covenant. Jen Klug asked what people thought about signing it. Jim Fitzpatrick said that the AJCU is a signator. Joe Bouchard asked what the pros and cons of signing are. Jim Fitzpatrick said that it is another way that we can show we are serious. David Frassinelli asked what the requirements are after signing. Jim Fitzpatrick said that he would look into it further and report back next meeting.

Prep expansion – David Frassinelli said that the University has filed plans with Planning and Zoning for an expansion of Prep. He said the expansion would be towards “Prep Alley” and include a green roof. The work could begin as soon as next summer. Dana August asked whether the green roof would be usable. David
Frassinelli stated that the green roof would be turf and that changes to vegetation composition could be made after approval. Jen Klug said that the CSC is supposed to be involved in projects at early phases, not after they have gone to Planning and Zoning. That was the main reason for the revision to the CSC charge. David Frassinelli pointed out that this is a Prep project. Jen Klug said that it still has an impact on the University campus. David Frassinelli suggested that the landscaping subcommittee meet to review the plans.

Round Hill Road sidewalks – There was discussion of the sidewalk work done on Round Hill Road this summer. Sidewalks were added from Barlow Road up to the Pepsico Theater. This is town property and the town did the tree work and the curbing. Fairfield put in the sidewalks. David Frassinelli said that the town has been encouraging the University to put in sidewalks along its entire Round Hill Road frontage. The town engineer has stated in public meetings that the sidewalks will be completed within 2 years. David Frassinelli said that we can anticipate that clearing could start any time. Jen Klug expressed concern that wildlife habitat will be impacted by removal of trees. Joe Bouchard asked how many trees would be removed. David Frassinelli said that Ken Platko is the town tree warden. He decides which trees need to be removed. The town can take trees down on their property without consulting the University. Jim Fitzpatrick asked David Frassinelli to keep the CSC updated. David Frassinelli said that if we work with the town we can advocate for asphalt sidewalks which will be less invasive than concrete sidewalks.

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Klug