FCS Meeting  
November 6, 2013

In attendance: Olivia Tourgee (FUSA), Jim Biardi, Michael Cavanaugh, Toby Svoboda, Tod Osier, Carol Ann Davis

1. Announcements:

From Jim: Jim suggests a contingent of committee members attend the “Just Sustainability” conference (Seattle, June 2014) & Jim will attend the Collegium at Holy Cross and will speak about sustainability from a Jesuit perspective. Both of these are terrific opportunities for the committee.

From Michael: MG 340 course is being rewritten around the theme of skyscrapers with Legos—Michael invites a speaker on sustainability in building practice—as this is a rapidly growing field Michael's also developing a sustainability course in SOB.

From Olivia: Olivia discussed her role on the committee to link different entities at the university; one of FUSA's points of emphasis is sustainability. Jim suggested a FUSA member also join CSC.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Davis moved to approve; Cavanaugh seconded, and all voted to approve without revision.

3. CSC Matters

Jim gave a short summary on the October CSC meeting: He’s following up on completed CSP (Campus Sustainability Plan). There's been no substantive response yet from the administration, but we expect one soon. Efforts are underway to put the CSP on the link to the website, and Jim is going to meet with Residence Life on sustainability.

CSC also discussed the case statement for the Sustainability Coordinator; Jim’s solicited feedback from administrators on the plan (especially financial benefits of coordinator), and he’s received some. (We have this item for our review by email.)

Jim solicited issues for CSC meeting 11.13. Tod asked if there was additional talk RE renovations to Alumni Field; faculty are still concerned about the synthetic surface–Jim has made it clear that we (FCS or CSC) would like to be kept in the loop on these decisions. Another source of concern: the impact on habitat in the green brushy area behind the field; we would like an update on that. It’s valuable as an instructional resource (ornithology). We’d like a check in on each of those issues.

4. Immediate Business

a. The FCS has received a formal request to review the Environmental Studies Major Proposal. It’s been approved by the ES steering committee. We are to review and provide Director David Downie with a letter that would accompany the proposal through the university approval process. Jim is happy to write the letter at the will of the committee and solicited additional feedback. All agreed it is a strong proposal—and it’s interesting
that we will be in a leadership position among the cohort of Jesuit institutions in offering such a major.

Toby moved to endorse the proposal; Michael seconded. All were in favor.

b. Case statement for Campus Sustainability Coordinator: Jim offered the committee this document as a formality since it has been forwarded to SVPAA Paul Fitzgerald so that he may argue for this position during the budgeting process. Michael mentioned that we may also need to consider divestment of the endowment from certain companies; it’s consistent with our pedagogical models grounded in Jesuit values. Perhaps in time the coordinator will take up this issue, though it’s probably not appropriate for this proposal. (It is mentioned in the CSP.)

5. Ongoing Business

a. Open space inventory—Tod updated the committee that he and Jen Klug are in meetings with Tom Curran and David Frassinelli, but meetings are slow and infrequent. Tom’s very enthusiastic, but the process is slow. Jim reminded the committee that the Academic Council requested we work on this; work is ongoing.

6. Future Business

a. Jim will update Academic Council on the committee’s work since its founding (especially the CSP and open space inventory).

b. Sustainability Internship Program—Jim suggested we create a SIP here at Fairfield based on the Santa Clara model, first evaluating its feasibility and then developing a proposal. Jim would like to gauge the enthusiasm of the committee and solicited someone on the committee to take a leadership role in this. The committee is supportive but recommends we await the outcome of the administration’s response for the Sustainability Coordinator, since going forward with a SIP proposal at the same time might diminish the power of that proposal. We will return to this issue at one of our spring meetings after we hopefully have been informed of what the outcome is on the Sustainability Coordinator proposal.

c. Parking Usage Study: At the GF meeting there was a call to study the parking use on campus, specifically the new lots near the Quick Center. Discussion of the issue, and its history, followed. Jim mentioned that a parking structure might work better than what we have, and Olivia mentioned that students would probably benefit from a parking structure. Jim will request the consultant’s study that was done before the lot was built.

d. Composition of the Athletic Field—discussed previously in item 3.

7. Additional Business

Olivia will solicit items for our committee from FUSA.

Adjournment at 10:58.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Ann Davis