Fairfield University  
Faculty Sustainability Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, April 4, 2012  
2:06-3:06  
CNS 200

Members Present:  James Biardi, Jen Klug, Antonio Grau Sempere, Dina Franceschi, Mike Cavanaugh, Michael Tucker, Paul Fitzgerald (ex-officio), James Fitzpatrick (guest)

The minutes from the meeting of February 15, 2012 were approved unanimously.

- James Fitzpatrick provided an update on the new University Sustainability Grants program. Funds are allocated from student programming, with three (3) grants of $1500 expected to be awarded. The goal of this grant program is to provide funds for projects with a 'lasting impact' on sustainability at FFLD. The application process is modeled on the Brinkman Diversity grant program. The Campus Sustainability Committee will select the first round of awardees in late Fall 2012, with projects announced during Earth Week.

  Mike Cavanaugh asked if interdisciplinarity was one criterion, and Jim Fitzpatrick replied there would be room for that as a factor.

  Jen Klug suggested that 'Reducing Fairfield University's impact on the environment' be added to the rubric used to rank applications. She also suggested adding 'Research project' to the Item 3 of the application ('Type of submission'). There was general agreement on both points.

  Michael Tucker inquired whether there will be an information session for potential applicants before the grant submission deadline. Dina Franceschi requested the final application be distributed to faculty in the Program on the Environment for distribution to those students. General discussion followed on communication of this new grant opportunity, with agreement on distributing via the PoE, Faculty Announcements, University Announcements, Students 411, and to LEAF.

- Jen Klug gave an update on the March 21st meeting of the CSC:
  - There was discussion of the approval process for the Campus Sustainability Plan, it's evaluation by senior management, possible signatories, and whether this depended on the CSP being viewed as a policy document vs. an aspirational document.
  - In the Campus Operations section of the CSP draft the CSC asked for clarification on how policies were promulgated and enforced by different campus units.
• In the Waste Management section of the CSP draft the CSC asked the working group to include material beyond solid waste and recycling; specifically including chemical and hazardous waste management in the section.

• Michael Tucker provided comments by Arturo Jaras Watts ’14 on his informational meeting with members of the Board of Trustees about sustainable and socially responsible investing. No action by the board is thought to be imminent.

There was general discussion of next steps for the SRI initiative. One possibility is to ask about proxies held by the university, and encourage voting those according to sustainability principles as appropriate. There was agreement that a statement for the Board and the Finance Committee reviewing case studies of other institutions with sustainability criteria in their investment strategies would be useful.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Biardi