

Committee on Environmental Responsibility
Minutes 3/18/08

Members Present: Susan Murphy, Julie Rosenbach, Connie Mullane, Peter Anderson, Dan Nein, Sarah Potter, Dale Chapman, John Smedley, David Das, Camille Parrish

We will approve last 3 meeting minutes next meeting

Julie update: Has the sustainable Bates webpage ready to read over for comments. Trashion show is tomorrow night in Commons – 3/19/08
Julie presented the Sustainability Program Overview to the President's Council on 3/18/08. We are making strides.

Sarah: Went to a conference on sustainability for purchasing and found we are far ahead of other schools.

Julie: Went to the NESEA conference in Boston. Had the meeting of the steering committee of other NE schools' sustainability coordinators. Talked about all of the surveys coming their way and many of them are not well prepared. Group is talking about how to deal with all of these requests and give feedback to groups about design of surveys.

John: Contact with Elaine. She will give it some thought to update trustees about the coming report. She will get back to John.

Julie: Timeline for road map from last minutes. Next deadline is June 1 for rough draft from sub-groups. Sept 1 first draft of entire report. Sept 15 brief Elaine.

We need to come up with a format for each subgroup to report out. How will we go about making the format/template? Julie will look at other colleges' road maps and send them out to us for examples. Julie will make a proposal to us and will work with John to bring something to us.

Next meeting we will have a catered lunch and decide on format.

Subgroups- Transportation, Energy, Offsets, Culture

What is the focus of each subgroup;

Renewable Energy- heat and electricity. Alternative ways of heating the campus. How far can we go with this? Also look at electricity after our 5 year contract ends. Costs are going up.

Julie got a call from someone re. Biomass generation and has been in touch with Paul Farnsworth and Bill Hiss. Julie would like to schedule that presentation or subgroup can schedule that and invite more people.

Transportation- Faculty and staff commuting, college fleet, college travel, dept. travel, athletics, etc. and alternatives

Offsets- Looking at options for offsets, costs,etc

Culture- Greening Bates and cultural changes

Assignment of groups- Julie is on all groups

Renewable Energy- Peter, Camille, John

Transportation- Sarah, Doug, Susan

Offsets- Sarah, Connie, Marianne, John

Culture- Dale, David, Dan

Culture can also capture some of the policy areas that the other groups don't. Idea- offset costs of certain purchases.

Should each group have a chair or should that be decided at the first group meeting?

These people will convene the first meeting but are not committed to taking a leadership role.

Connie- offsets

Camille- energy

Susan- transportation

David- culture

Try to have the first meeting before the next CER meeting.

What do we want to address in the transportation mix? The agreement spells out the initial transportation mix. Additional items can be decided on by the CER.

Julie will send out implementation guidance to us.

Julie will set up the meeting with the biomass person to do a presentation.

Next meeting of CER is April 1 from noon to 1:30 in G05 Pettengill.

Short term starts the 22nd. We will not meet on April 15th. Next meeting is April 21st at noon then May 5th and 19th at noon.

Peter: Architect selection will be finalized in a week.

Camille updated CER on the agricultural sustainability/commons celebration meeting with Elaine and others.

Holly Guerney is looking to us to help us integrate the book and reading into the first year program. Matriculation dinner is another tie-in for the book and reading.

Dale: FYS faculty meetings is a place to talk about integrating sustainability into courses. Could be a good faculty grant/seminar opportunity.

Sarah: CBB- going to do recycled cloth bags for books. Each school could put their information on them. Will have to buy 10,000 bags to get 0.50 each. Needs to fund raise.