Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting minutes
November 7, 2008
Location: Building 1 Conference Room
Time: 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Agenda
1. Discussion of SAC mission
2. Goals for 2008-09
3. Early Learning Center opening
5. Recycle bin inventory and labeling
6. Coca Cola bin grant application
7. Representation at campus events
8. Coordination with wellness committee
9. Use of website to promote local activities
10. AASHE Conference
11. Recycle yard project update
12. Next meeting date – set meeting schedule

In attendance: Buzz Kane, Sue Habeck, Monica Hall, Julie Burton, Evelyn Tompkins, Gavan Albright, Katie Gulliford, Kathryn Longfellow, Gavan Albright, Judy Lynn, Ruth Ann Mikels

As the meeting commenced, Julie surprised the committee with decals and SAC T-shirts of her original design and private funding source. Our student representative, Monica Hall, was introduced.

1. Discussion of SAC mission

   We reviewed the SAC mission statement developed last year and discussed possible changes. The church was at peace with itself and no changes were proposed for 2008-09.

2. Goals for 2008-09

   The goals we presented at last year’s sustainability summit at UWT were reviewed (more sustainability into curriculum (“S” courses?, new mission statement, a title for our sustainability coordinator, feasibility of a bicycle barn, reconsideration of safety and security fee to reward students who commute alternatively).

   Kathryn Longfellow indicated that she has been in contact with Pierce Transit to negotiate for reduced bus passes for students. They have been reluctant but Kathryn noted that their lease with us expires in 2013 and that we may be able to exert some leverage in our negotiations of that. Siphoning off funds generated from the Safety & Security fee to subsidize bus passes for students is not likely, especially given the current financial situation.

   We also reviewed the goals established at the last meeting. Sue will add our notes to those and get them to us in a separate document before the next meeting.
The budget will not be very friendly this next year. Buzz asked about the money we get from scrap metal recycling, if that couldn’t be used to support some of the goals of the sustainability initiative. Those dollars actually just end up in the operating budget and so are not really available.

Faculty professional development funds might be a good source for getting sustainability into the curriculum. Monica noted that student funds might also be a resource. Julie raised the idea about implementing a sustainability fee (an opt-out fee). Sue pointed out that we should be sure we’re clear about what exactly that would be funding.

Katie is involved with the Curriculum for the Bioregion this year and is developing a module for use in the general chemistry classes. There still good be grant funding possibilities through that initiative but we’ve not had much luck so far.

Julie indicated that she will keep her antennae up at the upcoming ASHE meeting (see item 9 below) and see what she can learn about how other institutions fund their sustainability efforts.

3. Early Learning Center opening

TCC received many accolades about the Early Learning Center. The composting system is a hit and the facility will be a great learning lab for the rest of our campus. Also, Julie pointed out that the center does have food and clothing available and does accept donations.


Thanks to Julie and her team the Green Cleaning Handbook is now available and a link will be posted on the SAC website. She also noted that HR is working with individuals with chemical sensitivities and the new cleaning regimes should help affected individuals.

5. Recycle bin inventory and labeling

Kerry Morford, Julie’s work-study student, has just finished getting stickers on all of the recycle bins as we gear up for Recyclemania 2009. This year we’ll get our weekly progress on the electronic reader boards and do more to engage the campus community.

6. Coca Cola bin grant application

We did not get this grant last year but have reapplied for this year.

7. Representation at campus and community events

SAC members are encouraged to serve as ambassadors for sustainability at campus events and local fairs. We will be participating at the next Sustainability Summit which will be held at UPS in mid-February. Both Sue and Julie are working with the planning committee. Julie
also continues to work with the Wellness Committee which has many ties to sustainable living.

8. Coordination with wellness committee [see item 7 above]

9. Use of website to promote local activities

We’ll be posting local activities on the SAC website. Given the number of ongoing volunteer opportunities (e.g., restoration projects), Ruth Ann suggested that we post the link to the Green-Tacoma Partnership calendar since they are acting as a central communication source for various projects throughout the city and county.

http://cascadeland.org/stewardship/green-cities/green-tacoma-partnership-1

10. AASHE Conference

The AASHE Conference this year is in Raleigh, North Carolina. Julie is going. AASHE expects 1600 attendees but less than 20 from the NW. Travel budget’s in the NW are frozen. Lane is sending 2 reps, PLU and UPS will be represented. We’ll be the only community college from Washington state.

Julie asked if there’s anything in particular we’d like her to be on alert for as she picks which sessions to attend. Budget issues! How do other schools do it? Even if there’s no money we’d like to get a line item into our budget for SAC.

11. Recycle yard project update

This project will be presented for study at the Nov Board of Trustees meeting. It will then be an action item for the January meeting.

12. Next meeting date – set meeting schedule

December 5, 2008, 1:30 – Building 29 conference room

Meeting was adjourned at ca 3:15.

Respectfully, albeit delinquently, submitted,
Ruth Ann Mikels