Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) MEETING MINUTES---DRAFT

October 7, 2009

Attendees: Silvia Barajas, Sue Habeck, Buzz Kane, Ruth Ann Mikels, Lori Peterson, Clint Steele, Evelyn Tompkins, Trung Tran

The meeting proceeded as a “round the table” sharing session.

1. We introduced ourselves to our new VP, Silvia Barajas.

2. We explored different ideas related to getting our student work study position back or at least ways to get Monica Hall a position where she could continue to do sustainability duties. Ideas included asking Kari Twogood about the Americore student (Sue will do), keeping our eyes out for unfilled and appropriate work-study positions (for example in the science building front desk). Sue is on the work-study supervisor waitlist in the mean time in case more positions open up for winter term.

3. Sue Habeck and Katie Gulliford attended the UWT Summer Faculty Institute that focused on Puget Sound water quality but explored other sustainability topics as well. Two other instructors from TCC attended, and it was wonderful that both are not science teachers and both are adjuncts (Jacob Martens, English and Himanee Gupta, Poli Sci). The institute consisted mainly of field trips, including one aboard an oceanographic teaching vessel. The instructors plan to offer a sharing session for faculty about the event and our curricular projects.

4. Sue is exploring a potential speaker who is from Nicaragua but who is working with villagers near Cancun involving hydroponics, solar etc.

5. Ruth Ann is the main contact person for TCC’s participation in the Green Tahoma Partnership (GTP). A Tacoma-wide habitat restoration event at thirteen different locations occurred on September 26th. TCC’s restoration site, Kia Kaha was selected as one of the sites. Ruth Ann attended several meetings, did an enormous amount of prep-work including sign-making, cookie baking, buying recyclable cups, and updating the liability forms. About a dozen people showed up to pull invasive weeds, including SAC member Trung Tran (& Sue helped move tools).

6. Clint updated us on several facilities projects:
   a) The recycle yard was approved by the Board of Trustees last year but there is much left to do, including design work/engineering. There are many challenges such as rat control, food waste handling, etc. Part of the design work will involve field trips to other sites. These activities may begin next spring. It will be good to get Eddie more on board with these projects now that he has taken over as the Administrator in charge of custodial since Julie left.

   b) Our Building 29 solar panels continue to garner much attention.
- Clint has given quite a few tours to classes and other groups.

- He was approached by the Natural Solar Energy Society, asking that TCC be one of 17 tour sites selected from across the whole nation! TCC was unable to sign their liability forms, but was still included as one of the tour sites on their brochures. So Clint was available on the day of the event and gave a tour to one person.

- Some of the panels are currently malfunctioning but the company who installed them, Sun Energy Systems, has been real responsive.

- Phase II of the solar panel project involves the electrical outlets for cars… and it is still an on-going project.

- Buzz suggested it’d be great PR to have something on one of our electric signs that indicated the electricity generated by the panels, perhaps a weekly or monthly average?

b) TCC Perimeter Project:  This project is on a fast track. The design should be approved by the Board before fall quarter is over. There was a nice turn out during Pre-instructional Days by TCC employees to meet the design team and give feedback on several proposed options. This is the estimated course of events: Phase I will involve improvements to S 12th and Pearl, including a sign at the corner. Phase II will involve an electronic sign near the S 12th street entrance, and probably a traffic circle. Phase III will likely be S 19th street between Kia Kaha and TACID (Sue and Ruth suggested that a sign be placed on Kia Kaha’s corner sooner than later, if possible!), and Phase IV is improvements to Mildred.

c) Design Phase of the new Allied Health Building:
- TCC is currently having test wells dug to see about the feasibility of Geothermal heating for this building! It will depend on the overall cost to implement Geothermal… hopefully less than $400,000.

- Clint has requested that the roof have infrastructural elements that could allow solar panels in the future.

- There is some talk of a living, planted, “green” roof as part of the building.

- The designers have expressed interest in shooting for LEED Platinum, which is more “sustainable” than LEED Gold. We are not aware of any other community colleges in Washington with a LEED Platinum building! That would be pretty impressive.

d) Clint explained how TCC was involved in a resource-saving effort a few years ago that was beneficial to the college. We found heating ducts that led to no where, replaced inefficient sink faucets, replaced lights, etc. We pay/paid for the project out of the energy savings. It’s a little tricky to calculate all of these things, but overall the project was good for TCC.
7. **TCC’s involvement in the Pierce County Sustainability Summit and Expo:**

Sue attended the first meeting at PLU where the events will take place this year in March. The Summit is for college staff and students and will most likely be a Friday afternoon. The Expo is a public event on a Saturday involving booths, poster sessions, talks etc. This year’s theme is about STUDENTS of all ages and their contribution to sustainability efforts in the community. Sue has served on the planning committee (along with Julie) the past two years (the first two years the event has happened: 2008 at UWT, and 2009 at UPS). We racked up quite a few hours. Also as a participating, sponsoring institution, TCC kicked in several hundred (or more) dollars for the event. Without Julie and Monica, and with the budget situation, Sue suggested that perhaps TCC may not be able to participate this year. Or at least not on the planning committee etc. Perhaps we’d still be welcome to have a table at the Expo. The committee agreed that for now, we need to pull back our activities to focus on what each of us is already involved with.

8. Ruth Ann will respond to the request we received to help teach a curriculum with WSU about Small Farms declining to be involved at this point.

The next meeting will be Wed December 9th, at 1:30 in Building 29’s conference room behind the main office.

Notes respectfully submitted by Sue Habeck