Minutes for the Sustainability Committee meeting 1/25/11  
MUB 298  
3-4:30pm

Attending
Raymond Powell, Gyongyi Gozon, Zen Trenholm, Jaime Gonzalez, Carla Grandy, Athena Lynn Stef, Anastasia Fiandaca, Peggy Lopipeo-Langmo, Kristen Charles, Joy Durighello, Denise Louie, Crima Pogge, Michelle Gorthy, Erika Delacorte, Deborah Levy, Carlita Martinez, Caroline Gibbs, Jana Zanetto, Chantilly Apollon

Minutes taken by Jana Zanetto

3:10 call to order

1. Task Force updates
   - Energy audit report (Peggy): One hindrance to simulating interest in prioritizing energy reduction is lack of financial incentive due to a sweetheart deal between CCSF & PG&E.
   - Green Corps update (Zen): Update on farmer’s market for next meeting; group focus is on leadership development and recruitment of new members. Interested faculty can request a GC member to recruit in classes.
   - Website (Chantilly): Her present focus is the logo for our group—in coordination with a graphics design class; Peggy has culled links and organized remaining links by topic; Hitesh is connecting with CSM; the old website remains active in the meantime; college webmaster wants to review content before the new site is posted.
   - Water Bottles (Deborah, as no members present): Two issues: 1) AS contract with Pepsi will end soon; action is needed before the contract is renewed; student representation to connect with AS is desirable. For possible supporters, Alan deSouza, who may be willing to work on this issue, should be contacted, and Anastasia is willing to meet with others. Gyongyi volunteered to attend AS meetings about this issue. 2) Graduation gifts: Carol Fregly has put our committee’s suggestion to replace t-shirts with stainless water bottles with logo on graduation agenda. Three faculty spaces are available on the graduation committee; members could join and support this gift idea.
   - Landscaping (Denise): 1) Care of MUB rooftop garden as been problematic: it should be under Buildings and Grounds’ care, but that office was unaware of it. Safety training is the main concern and is required before B&G takes control of the rooftop. Raymond, on this task force, has been trained in similar work. 2) The slow work continues toward removal of invasive plants from Ocean Campus, as defined by the California Invasive Plant Council, which lists the following plants as invasive:
     * pampas grass
     * cotoneaster
     * gazania
     * Monterey cypress
     * kikuyu grass
     * helichrysum
     * oxalis
     * Himalaya blackberry
It was reported that Steven Brown from Horticulture requires pampas grass for class use and also that he had expressed concern about students having scattered annual (wildflower) seeds in bare spots around MUB and other buildings lacking landscaping. It was agreed that Crima and a couple of others will try to set up a meeting with Steven to discuss these issues, as he has been unable to attend our meetings, to which he has been invited.

Athena Lynn Stef from the VRC (Vacancy Review Committee) said that there is some concern in some quarters about the sustainability committee acting unilaterally or not following procedure. Anastasia responded by supporting the importance of understanding and then working within the present college structure to build support for sustainability projects from all constituent bodies. Returning to the planting issue, Erika suggested an effort at compromise on the pampas grass issue, such as growing it in a very controlled area. Crima, Joy, and Joe (Cannon) will arrange a meeting with him.

- Green curriculum (Coordination with Counseling Office) (Anastasia): She has arranged a meeting with Dean Boegel to identify and reorganize the catalog to “cluster” green curriculum in some way, as course offerings fall under a range of departments, including Biology, Business, English, Geology, Health, Horticulture, & Oceanography.

2. Priorities for the semester
   The following projects were identified by the group:
   - website up
   - Earth Day, April 22
   - California Native Plant week (April 17-21)
   - water bottle projects
   - Sustainability Coordinator position
   - grant writing
   - farmers’ market

   It was suggested that because projects that require funding, like the urban garden, require funding, prioritizing grant writing is necessary. The Green Initiative Fund (GIF) to offset photovoltaic installation, could be funded through an optional student fee. Peggy identified Skyline College as a model for this. Deborah suggested that top priorities might be grants, getting a sustainability coordinator, and water bottles issues, as the contract renewal issue requires action soon.

   A regular City Currents column, like Green Scene, to disseminate green and sustainable practices, was suggested; there was general agreement for this.

3. Sustainability Coordinator job description

   Erika reported that when she and Deborah met with Virginia Jew, they were told that the chancellor wanted a specific job description to submit to the VRC. In response to that, Deborah and Erika contacted a number of educational institutions to review their sustainability position requirements. FRC has been asked to support such a position – further discussion to be held at their Feb 16 meeting.

   Suggestions and comments on an initial draft of the job description were then taken.
   1) More specifics should be included;
   2) leadership for colleges and the city should be added to bullets under Job Purpose;
   3) wording should not suggest that the green economy is different from the economy at large;
4) all constituent bodies should be included—students, faculty, staff, and administrators, and “student groups” should replace Green Corps specifically; descriptors should be divided into “requirements” and “desirables”.

As the Waste Management coordinator, Carlita expressed concern that a sustainability coordinator position, as written, could take away funding, present or future, from waste management, especially with budgeting constraints. She reiterated her long wait for assistance with her current workload, in waste management—the most prominent, successful, and money-saving aspect of sustainability currently functioning.

In response, it was suggested that our tactics should be reconsidered: general support was given to the idea of allocating 50% of funding for the position to waste management. Carlita will be asked to list her program needs so that they can be prioritized in the description. Another suggestion was to prioritize more money-saving projects, such as waste management. It was also suggested that Kristin come to the next meeting with information related to grant writing for this position. It was generally agreed that grant writing be our first priority, as a source of funding for most of our projects, especially waste management support.

There was general agreement for holding a next meeting to discuss the coordinator position job description. Follow-up meeting: 1/31 from 1-2:30pm in MU 298. In addition, task forces may meet in MUB 298 on 2/7, 3-4:30.

Next full Sub-Committee meeting: Monday Feb 14, 3-4:30

The meeting adjourned at 4:40.