Sustainability Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 9, 2014, 2-3 p.m.
Zero-Energy House


Not Present: Kandi Bauman, Christine Campbell, Daniel Creech, Michelle Hillesland, Sam Parnell, Jamilyn Penn, David Rich, and Michael Taylor.

Welcome/Introductions

Dan Smith called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. He welcomed Vice President Linda Schoonmaker who was asked to attend the meeting to give the committee reporting direction and guidance on the Sustainability Committee Strategic Plan. The attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The committee reviewed the meeting minutes from the November 14, 2013, meeting. Dan asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Wayne Bridges made a motion, and Josie Meyer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Update VP Schoonmaker and Direction for Reporting

Josie reported to Vice President Schoonmaker that the Sustainability Committee was established as a task force in June 2010 and became a standing committee in March 2013. When the task force became a standing committee the committee established goals that came from the committee’s self-assessment using the SEED (Sustainability Education & Economic Development) Center’s rating tool. The SEED Center was established by the American Association of Community Colleges in response to national sustainability initiatives.

Mabel Edmonds received a fellowship through the SEED Center to be a part of the training process and bring that information back to the college. Through the fellowship, our college received a mentor college, which was Santa Fe Community College. Using the results of the SEED Center’s rating tool, the Governance Work Group and Curriculum Work Group was formed. The college has received ties to state and technical college resources such as the Center for Excellence.
Debbie Collins described the formation of the Governance Work Group who developed the list of goals. The committee waited until the college’s Strategic Plan was approved. Once the college’s plan was approved the Sustainability Committee tied the committee goals to align with the college’s Strategic Plan, which is reflected in the sustainability’s plan. Next, the idea was to come up with strategies for achieving those goals and putting price tags on them if necessary.

The Sustainability Committee asked Vice President Schoonmaker for direction on how Dr. Howard would like to see the Sustainability Plan, how we need to be accountable, who we need to be accountable to, how that plan should be developed, and how to create our report, and how the committee asks for money. Initiatives might require some funding.

Next Steps for the Sustainability Strategic Plan

Vice President Schoonmaker gave the following suggestions for direction to the committee:

1. Funds for initiatives would be included into the mix for Dr. Howard’s approvals.
2. The Sustainability Committee needs buy-in from the responsible department doing the action.
4. Get the college community involved and get the students involved.
5. Get the departments named in the plan involved and determine if the departments need financial resources to implement the suggested action of the plan.
6. Tie the Sustainability Strategic plan to the three institutional goals named in Dr. Howard’s Strategic Direction presentation and to the six strategic goals extracted the college’s Strategic Plan.
7. Support goals with data.
8. Just look at the small stuff.

Linda reported that the college needs to have a greenhouse gas plan before the college can submit for the next capital project, so part of the greenhouse gas plan is that we have 30-year old diaper trucks driving around campus, so the cost and the emissions are not good. Andy suggested investing in growing trees across the street to absorb the carbon dioxide. The college’s Master Plan will address the outdoor-laboratory land across the street from the Lakewood Campus and determine if it could be used for building facilities with consideration to part of the land being environmentally protected. Would we be allowed to disturb all of that by planting trees? Andy confirmed that it would be okay.

Approval of Bylaws

The Sustainability’s Governance Work Group drafted the Sustainability Committee’s bylaws. The work group used the Diversity Committee’s bylaws as a template.
Dan confirmed that the bylaws had been distributed to the committee for review and asked for a motion to approve. Andy made a motion to accept the bylaws as presented. Wayne seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Report on Water Bottle Campaign**

Josie reported that the investigation to fund the water bottle campaign led to the Foundation. The Foundation indicated that the faculty and staff could make a donation of $50 to the annual giving campaign and get a stainless-steel water bottle. The donation is tax deductible. The Foundation is kicking off their annual giving campaign next month, so the Sustainability Committee’s water bottle campaign could be tied into the giving campaign.

There was a lengthy discussion with consideration to the direction the committee should go at this time. The health and environmental impact data could be presented to the campus community via the Sustainability in Action as well as including the information on the location of water filling stations. There are two water filling stations in Building 21 and one in Building 15. The Associated Student Government is working to get one in the Student Center, Building 23.

The committee decided to take some more time do a thoughtful rollout and educate the campus. Wayne stated that the committee will need to convince the campus community to take action and of the importance of not using disposable plastic bottles. There needs to be more motives than recycling. Wayne suggested that perhaps some company would like to sponsor the campaign and provide water bottles.

The committee thanked Josie for the time she invested in the investigation into funding the water bottle campaign.

**Curriculum Work Group Report:**

**Curriculum Development**

Dan reported that he has completed his part of the curriculum development project and has infused the curriculum into his classroom and is working out some flaws. The curriculum is working well, and he is using video spots in his PowerPoint presentations. Andy reported that the curriculum is working great in his program. Wayne reported that the Automotive Sustainability PowerPoint that he created is being used in all of the automotive basics classes in Building 3.

The faculty are now waiting for more direction from Christine Campbell who along with Jamilyn Penn will be bringing the curriculum to the Curriculum Committee.

Mabel encouraged the faculty to consider presenting the sustainability curriculum at the next Faculty In-service event.
Next Meeting/Next Steps

Mabel reported that as part of the accreditation process there is two sections within accreditation that focuses on sustainability. The accreditation visit will occur in October 2014. All of the initiatives, committees, and work groups are being asked to document the history of the group and how it came to be.

Dan Smith and Christine Campbell volunteered to do an annual report for that purpose. The draft is due at the end of January or the first part of February.

Dan asked to hold the agenda item numbers 7 and 8 for the next meeting’s business.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 13, from 2-3 p.m. in the Zero-Energy House.

Action Plan

1. Connect the three institutional goals and the six goals into the Sustainability Strategic Plan.
2. Create a sustainability curriculum presentation for the Faculty In-service.
3. Create the annual report for the Sustainability Committee records and well as a requirement for the accreditation process. The first report will encapsulate the first meeting of the task force through 2013. The report will be completed annually moving forward.
4. Explore planting trees across the street to absorb carbon dioxide emission from motor vehicles.
5. Present sustainability curriculum to faculty at the next Faculty In-service event.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.