Sustainability Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 5, 2013, 2-3 p.m.
Zero-Energy House


Not Present: Kandi Bauman, Mabel Edmonds, Andy Fritz, Michelle Hillesland, Sam Parnell, Linda Ricks, Michael Taylor and Phil Terry.

Welcome/Introductions

Dan Smith called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. The committee members introduced themselves and welcomed David W. Englund who attended the meeting to satisfy a course requirement.

Brainstorm to Name Actions in the Sustainability Strategic Plan

Dan asked members for their ideas for action for each of the goals in the draft Sustainability Strategic Plan. Josie explained that the plan is a draft of the committee’s goals, which were linked to the American Association of Community Colleges’ SEED (Sustainability Education and Economic Development) Center’s rating tool. The plan has been tied into the college’s Strategic Plan, and the next step is to identify any actions that the committee/college needs to take to achieve the goals, which would justify the need for an operational budget.

Josie reported that for now Dr. Howard would like the committee to report through Jamilyn Penn who represents the Sustainability Committee as a member of the committee and is a member of the college’s Executive Team. Debbie reported that she had a conversation with Vice President Linda Schoonmaker regarding the committee since it is under the umbrella of the college’s Operations Department, which Linda assumed when Amy Goings left the college.

The committee decided to invite Vice President Linda Schoonmaker to the next meeting, so she can become familiar with what the committee is doing; and the committee can communicate how we need help progressing and communicating with the college’s leadership. Linda would be the key person to give the committee direction and guidance on the format for the Sustainability Strategic Plan and help the committee determine how to move forward with inviting Dr. Howard to a meeting.
Josie reported that she is investigating whether it would be considered gifting if we purchased stainless-steel water bottles for faculty and staff as part of the campaign at the Keeping Connected meeting to eliminate serving disposable water bottles at the meeting. Josie priced the purchase of the water bottles at approximately $2,000 based on the head count of 350 for all faculty and staff at the college. If it is not gifting, then there are all different kinds of pots of money that we might use to fund the campaign. If it is gifting, the only way to get the money is through the Foundation, and they suggested that it could be a fundraising opportunity. There are thoughts as to whether it can be deemed some form of advertising with the Clover Park logo and “Sustainability in Action.” Christine will provide Josie with data of how much waste the college would be saving.

The committee decided that the idea will not be approved on dollars and cents because it will take a long time to get a return on the dollar, but the goal is keeping the plastic bottles out of the landfill. The data to provide justification would be how much plastic we are keeping out of the landfill and any kind of life-cycle assessment and the health factor. Christine volunteered to contact Rita at Environmental Research and Education to see if she has anything in her library on the life-cycle assessment of the plastic water bottle.

The committee continued the review of the draft Sustainability Strategic Plan and suggested actions for the pay-to-print, green audit, lecture series for the Zero-Energy House, keeping compost materials out of the garbage dumpsters. The committee will determine at the next meeting how to split the Policies and Procedures for review to determine if the college is using sustainable practices.

Next Meeting/Next Steps

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 9, from 2-3 p.m. in the Zero-Energy House.

Action Plan

1. Response to stainless-steel water bottle gifting – Josie
2. Contact Rita at the Environmental Research and Education for information on the life-cycle of the plastic water bottle – Christine Campbell
3. Provide Josie with data of how much waste the college would be saving -- Christine
4. Invite Vice President Schoonmaker to the next meeting – Debbie
5. Assign portions of the Policies and Procedures for review – Committee
6. Invite Mike Anderson and Morris Miller to future meetings to champion sustainable practices in grounds keeping and custodial areas

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.