

Environmental Stewardship Committee

Meeting Notes

April 5, 2011

Members in attendance: Michael Alcazaren, Undergraduate Student Association; Tom Furlani, Information Technology; James Nadbrzuch, Student Affairs; Joseph Raab, University Facilities; Alan Rabideau, Undergraduate Education; Jeffery Reed, Employee Relations; Dan Vivian, Procurement Services; Jean Wactawski-Wende, Strategic Strengths,;

Absent: Massimo Betello, Graduate Student Association; Beth Del Genio, Office of the Provost; Carol Kobrin, Health Sciences; Kenneth Tramosch, Research;

Excused: Mary Alice Coffroth, Graduate School; Michael Dupre, University Facilities; Robert Shibley, chair.

Staff and others: Erin Moscati, UB Green; James Simon, UB Green; Paul Stephan; Student Association and Fred Stoss, University Libraries.

Review of Minutes. Notes from March 1, 2011 meeting were circulated. The notes were approved for posting on the ESC website.

As Bob Shibley was absent, the meeting was chaired by Joe Raab.

Committee Structure. J. Raab- Search for communications committee continues. B Shibley has indicated having discussions with Joe Brennan to serve as chair. No further updates.

Student Projects.

Earth Day Activities, M. Alcazaren & P. Stephan

- Sustainability Bazaar happening in SU April 8th to introduce UB community what's happening from an environmental perspective with local businesses.
- Campus to Campus Bike Ride on April 12th to increase rider awareness.
- Earth Week 2011 April 16- 22- discussion of activities planned, which include: bike path clean up, movie series, speaker night, Wear Green Day, Mt. Trashmore, solar smoothie cart.

Discussion

- J. Raab is there anything the ESC can do to support?
- M. Alcazaren please attend the speaker series and help circulate announcements.
- J. Simon is there an email announcement which we can receive?
- M. Alcazaren to email J. Simon for distribution to ESC listserv.

PVC Campaign

- J. Raab overview of Kristina Blank's presentation at last meeting.
- J. Simon progress update- PVC issue is now being discussed by Materials, Energy and IT subcommittees.
- Meeting to be held on April 19th with Facilities directors, D. Vivian and others. Mike Schade of the Center for Health, Environmental and Justice and K. Blank to present.
- K. Blank has also drafted letter to DASNY SUCF to ban PVC. This letter is being reviewed by Energy Subcommittee.

Environmental Task Force.

- J. Raab- overview of ETF history beginning in early 90's, and its transition in to an env. policy making body to raise awareness, etc. J. Raab & B. Shibley have discussed the importance of having a grassroots body on campus to raise issues, etc.
- Update by J. Simon- ETF will be a "think and do committee". Meeting held last week with representatives of many student env. groups and departments who are actively working on env. projects. PechaKucha style presentations were given by groups. A. Rabideau- how was attendance? J. Simon- about 30 people attended. Lots of students were present as well as original ETF members. P. Stephan- We need to do a better job encouraging students at large to attend the meetings, many were already part of an env. group on campus. A. Rabideau- Publishing a schedule of meetings well in advance is always helpful. J. Raab- there was a discussion about practices taking place in The Commons concerning the use of Styrofoam and lack of recycling options. We need to work on improving recycling with leaseholders and communicate UB's environmental initiatives.

Committee Reports.

- J. Raab we will need to update AASHE of our Climate Action Plan progress to date. We will be reaching out to chairs for information as needed.

Research, Teaching and Public Service

- A. Rabideau- Update on climate survey, based on Yale's version. They have hired a student to develop the survey and have a faculty member overseeing the project. The hope is it can be used to track impacts of groups like ESC on campus consciousness. The Yale study shows there is a direct correlation between climate studies and interest in campus policy. J. Nadbrzuch- One of our biggest challenges is culture. Is this issue addressed by the survey? A. Rabideau- Not exactly, but we could build questions into the survey. A. Rabideau- It will be easy to implement the survey via the web and using clicker technology in the classroom.

Information Technology

- T. Furlani we have a server efficiency project on-going with NYSERDA. We are also looking at options to improve cooling efficiency of racks. Virtualization study continues- nodes are being used about 10% of time, which means they are sitting idle 90%. Pilot project to implement virtual computing labs, which will take away computer labs. Students will be able to access software over the wireless and wireless network using their laptops. J. Wactawski-Wende- Are students required to have computers? T. Furlani- No, but our studies indicate about 90% of students have their own computers. A. Rabideau- If departments have the ability to access software remotely it would result in huge savings.

Materials

- D. Vivian- We continue to focus on our 1, 3 and 5 year plans. Looking at those items which will result in monetary, as well as energy savings. Currently looking at copiers and document management and developing plan to implement. We need to better manage documents, improve efficiency in terms of holding on to physical copies. T. Furlani we have software called Image Now, have you been included in any of these discussions? Tom Wendt has been leading meetings. D. Vivian- I will be in touch with Tom. J. Raab- University Facilities uses Meridian software.

Transportation

- J. Nadbrzuch- Working on Click Book tool which identifies CO2 emissions. Park and Ride mapping out UB population and investigating operational needs. We continue to investigate van pools. The GBNRTC is also investigating. There may be an option to participate in a regional van pool program, as opposed to developing something specific to UB. Buffalo Blue Bikes has folded, so our bike sharing program is no longer. We are attempting to look at the option of operating it on our own for Spring semester.

Energy

- J. Raab- wrapping up NYPA Phase II project, site lighting on South. Now beginning Phase III- site lighting on North Campus. Update on Hara software, we have been approved to purchase. When we have the software J. Simon will gather energy data from campus and enter into system to show campus community their energy footprint.

Communications and Outreach

- J. Raab reported we are still looking for replacement chair.

Sustainability Workshop

- J. Simon- B. Shibley will act as emcee. Clicker questions will be built into the presentation to gather information on demographics. Order of committee presentations discussed. 5 minutes

per committee presentation, followed by feedback portion. E. Moscati- important to keep the campus community in the information loop. J. Raab- please encourage your staff and others in your department to attend the event. J. Raab- suggestions for encouraging audience participation? D. Vivian- it may be good to have people begin conversations by asking individual questions.

Creating a Central Web Space for Environmental Events

- A. Rabideau- The Research, Teaching and Public Service committee is generating products in terms of course listings, programs, events, etc. We need to do a better job at distributing this information to the campus. GSOB site is a professional looking website, but currently not well oriented in terms of providing good information. We also have no process in place to engage the designers of that site. Is there a need for our committee to reinvigorate this site or start anew? Env. GeoSciences website is currently housing some information. We need to have someone who is directly accountable to this committee in order to ensure it is updated, etc. F. Stoss- libraries are currently expanding env. databases and other information available to campus community. E. Moscati there is the option of utilizing our ESC site to highlight information. A. Rabideau- Highlighting some information on the ESC site would be fine, but it is not the best place to highlight academic. E. Moscati- this conversation emphasizes how important it is to reinvigorate the Communications Committee to work on the issue. J. Raab will discuss this issue with B. Shibley. A. Rabideau would be very interested in discussing these issues further with those involved with web communications.

Project Updates

Computer Recycling Days

- E. Moscati- April 26 from 11 a.m.- 6 p.m. and April 27 from 7 a.m.- 1 p.m., in the Center for Tomorrow parking lot. Open to UB faculty, staff, students and alumni association members. All computer and communication devices will be accepted. Also included are microwaves and televisions. Please contact UB Green 829-3535 emoscati@buffalo.edu for additional information.

UB Green Climate Talk

- J. Simon- April 12, 7 pm in Allen Hall discussion on creating a cohesive environmental community. *“Forward Movement: Defining a Strong Environmental Community in Buffalo and WNY”*. Moderator: Rebekah Williams, Environmental Programs Coordinator, Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo. Panel: Danielle Peters, GrowWNY.org/Sustainable Earth Solutions; Anthony Armstrong, Local Initiatives Support Corporation; Bob Knoer, Chair, WNY Environmental Alliance

Bicycle Repair Kits

- J. Simon- New program launched by UB Green, Parking & Transportation Services and Wellness Services. Four locations across North and South Campus. We hope they encourage folks to use bikes on campus by supporting needs.