

Ad Hoc Committee on Sustainability

Minutes for Meeting – March 10, 2008 (4 p.m.)

Committee Members Present: Paul Faulstich, Melinda Herrold-Menzies, Andre Wakefield, Scott McDermott '08, Josh Lipkowitz '08, Michael Rosenthal '10, Nicole Scheunemann '10, Lisa Rojas '07, Drew Herbert, Larry Burik, and Emily Cavalcanti

Committee Members Absent: Jim Marchant

Guests: Laura Skandera Trombley

Review Charge to the Committee

President Laura Skandera Trombley spoke to the committee with regards to why the committee was initially created as “ad-hoc” and how the committee might best approach its work this semester and beyond.

Trombley stated that her vision in creating the committee was to establish a central point of collaboration for the various sustainability activities/initiatives already at work on campus. Although many of these projects had been turning to her for approval and funding, Trombley believed the best option would be for larger group of community members to support such projects and also to communicate these efforts to others at the College.

Trombley added that the committee was initially designated as “ad hoc” because it was the fastest way to establish the committee and the best alternative at the time. If she had first tried to make it a standing committee, the approval process through FEC and College Council would have taken at least the rest of the school year and she did not want to wait that long to address such a urgent matter.

Committee member Andre Wakefield inquired further into the purpose of the committee and the length of its “ad hoc” designation. Trombley replied that she estimated the committee would remain “ad-hoc” for the rest of the Spring 2008 semester as well as the Fall 2008 semester at which point the recommendation to make this a standing committee should be official.

Paul Faulstich and Josh Lipkowitz '08 both questioned the timing for both proposing the committee as “standing” and hiring a sustainability coordinator. Trombley advised that the budget for next year is near completion so the committee should aim to make a budget recommendation to BIC in the fall (approximately 2.5 semesters until creation of new position could be approved). She also pointed out that even if a coordinator is hired it would still be best to preserve the committee.

Faulstich summarized that as the committee was to understand President Trombley’s charge, one of the main objectives for this semester would be to solidify this committee as standing. Wakefield added that this spring it was his understanding that the committee would be putting together a structure and proposal for next semester. Melinda Herrold-Menzies then asked Trombley whether there were any bite-size projects the committee might be able to accomplish this semester.

Discussion of Priorities and Goals for the Semester

Trombley suggested three goals for the Spring 2008 semester:

- 1.) Recommend short- and long-term sustainability goals for the College. Use previous reports and analyses that have compiled through class projects, make recommendations and devise an appropriate timeline and budget

- 2.) Document and communicate current sustainability activities/initiatives and share committee's work with the larger College community
- 3.) Establish as a standing committee and make recommendations for creation of sustainability coordinator position.

Faulstich then suggested that committee divide into three sub-committees to address each of these goals and members agreed. Sub-committee composition is as follows:

- 1.) **Governance:** Scott McDermott '08*, Andre Wakefield, Drew Herbert and Paul Faulstich
- 2.) **Short- and Long-Term Goals:** Josh Lipkowitz '08, Lisa Rojas '07* and Melinda Herrold-Menzies
- 3.) **Communications:** Emily Cavalcanti*, Jim Marchant, Michael Rosenthal '10 and Nicole Scheunemann '10

* *Designates sub-committee leader*

(Larry Burik to serve as consultant to all three sub-committees as needed)

The committee members agreed to meet individually as sub-committees and before meeting as the larger committee to circulate any recommendations beforehand.

The week of April 14 was suggested as the next full committee meeting time and it was requested that Jim Marchant arrange a time for that meeting that accommodates everyone's schedules.

Faulstich asked the committee to vote to endorse a resolution to be presented to College Council that calls for the protection of all three areas of the Bernard Field Station. Members of the committee voted to endorse the statement.

Meeting adjourned: 4:50 p.m.