Presidents Climate Commitment
February 19, 2009

Members Present: Hamm, Fabritius, Jamison, Lubbers, MacNabb, Messer, Muzyka, Noltemeyer, Norwood, Nyerges, Sweis. Invited Guests: Cody Buell, Rose-Marie Roessler

Mike Hamm reported that our committee’s recommendation regarding incorporation of sustainability and climate neutrality into the College’s Strategic Plan was made to the Planning and Priorities Committee. The recommendation was received favorably. In conversation, several members asked about the status of the Strategic Plan. Mike Fabritius volunteered to follow up. (A pdf copy is attached with these minutes.) Endre asked for an update regarding our committee’s recommendation to the International Studies committee. Miles will follow up.

Rose-Marie Roessler, President of Clarks Run Environmental Education Corporation (CREEC) described an Earth Day celebration that group is organizing for April 18. She invited our group to have a booth or display describing the sustainability efforts of the College. The committee voted to participate and Elizabeth MacNabb and Mike Fabritius volunteered to make the arrangements. Additionally, Mike Hamm volunteered to make contacts with the Central Kentucky Wildlife Refuge and The Kentucky Nature Conservancy and invite their participation. Herrington Lake Conservation League was also suggested.

Jamison Norwood reported on suggestions offered by Serge Palerroni. He discussed the value of incorporating natural light in new construction. Paleroni volunteered to send a spreadsheet detailing economic aspects of photovoltaic systems for our latitude. He said that new designs for green roof systems are much lighter and avoid many of the problems of earlier approaches. He suggested consideration of exposed plumbing as a way to moderate temperatures. Condensate on pipes makes people feel cooler.

Patrick Noltemeyer and Sami Sweis presented a draft of a possible mission/vision statement for our committee (attached). This draft was drawn from the current mission statement of the college and the goal of the Association of College and University President (AACU) and by examining the mission statements of sustainability committees at other colleges and universities. Some suggestions were made for minor changes. In discussion, it was suggested that this statement should be presented to governing groups on campus for their consideration and eventual incorporation into printed materials. Especially the student handbook and the faculty handbook. Consensus was that when our mission/vision is completed we should take it as a recommendation to the Faculty and to the College Council.

Cody Buell presented an analysis of electricity and natural gas use for selected buildings for FY 08/09. This presentation of the data was very well received. Cody was encouraged to continue this work and return at a subsequent committee meeting. Suggestions include: adding additional buildings to the analysis, calculating resource use in terms of dollars, grouping buildings in categories (dorm/academic/administrative/student services). These data could be presented on our PCC website and also at the Opening Faculty Conference.
Discussion of energy efficiency results presented by Buell brought our conversation back to LEED certification. A strong plea was made for an institutional commitment to achieving LEED certification for all new construction. We were reminded that the Planning and Priorities Committee discussed that FY 09/10 would follow a “no growth” budget. We were reminded that external certification is a cost that competes with other building attributes. It was pointed out that unless best available technology is incorporated into each new construction project, our institution’s progress toward climate neutrality will become more difficult.

Miles reported several items. Earth Hour, Saturday March 28, 8:30pm, sponsored by World Wildlife Fund. Sweis will discuss with Student Government. Progress on this year’s green house gas inventory is behind schedule. Request for summer student help was not supported. Jamison and Messer will investigate the possibility of using the Facilities Management data set or finding other approaches. Centre has been invited to bring two student poster presentations to the third Energizing Kentucky conference. Suggestions were student projects from ENS 210 (Lubbers) and the Buell building energy efficiency studies.

ECCO is planning to a dorm energy contest beginning the week after spring break. The dorms are now being identified. Promotion will be coordinated through Resident Assistants. Cody Buell will read the meters and conduct the data analysis. ECCO will promote using a variety of methods. Earth Hour could become a kick-off activity. ECCO anticipates scheduling another trip to Mother Ann Lee hydro plant for later this spring.

Next meeting was set for Tuesday March 10, common hour.