Presidents Climate Commitment
Meeting Notes
November 24, 2009

Present: Fabritius, Hamm, Jamison, King, MacNabb, Miles, Perkins, Pratt

Bethany described the recent award by E.ON. recognizing our student initiative to purchase REC’s sourced from Mother Ann Lee. Preston reported

Mike Hamm summarized a recent meeting with 8760 Engineering. Preston reported that holiday shutdown dates have been approved. Dec 12 through Jan 4. 23 days.

Wayne King joined us representing Scott Messer. Taking advantage of this opportunity, we asked that Wayne summarize for us some of the recent efforts the college has taken in weatherization and energy efficiency. Wayne distributed and discussed a “Green list” of 19 items (attached). In our conversation, four additional items were discovered.

20. Breck converted to water sourced heat pump and elimination of one large gas-fired boiler.
21. Bingham elimination of one large gas-fired boiler and replacement with three smaller units, only one or two used in most periods.
22. In Norton Center one 400 gallon water heater has been replaced with two 100 gallon units, with one unit alone serving for all but high demand occasions.
23. Replacement of all thermo pane windows in Norton Center, and installation of a separate HVAC system for office portion of Newlin Hall. Motion sensors in public spaces. Dual flush toilets.

Everyone was very impressed by the number, variety, and effectiveness of these projects. Mike F. suggested this information should be more widely known. Bethany will suggest this as web-page news item. Someone suggested this list be included in the Climate Action Plan as an appendix. (I think I heard the suggestion of appendix?)

Wayne then continued with discussion of future efficiency projects that will be pursued as funds allow: new fan-coil units in Nevin, renovation of Carnegie for forced air HVAC, replacement windows in Nevin and Old Quad.

Liz reported recent action by the International Program committee in which they unanimously recommend a program that assesses a fee for the environmental impact of air travel, with the funds are then used for energy efficiency projects on our own campus. Using estimates from CarbonFund.Org charges may range 10-30 dollars.

The International Programs committee wants this initiative to be educational in two senses: the students will see the direct link between their air travel and the production (and offsetting) of a specific amount of CO₂, and they will be able to identify a particular green project on campus that their offset dollars have contributed to. Steve Jamison suggested we assure this represent additional funds and does not become “budget relieving.”
A work group from International Studies committee and our group will work to establish details of the program. There are lots of details to be explored. We anticipate the fee would become part of course announcements in fall ’10, and the first assessments would be made with off-campus programs beginning fall ’11. Preston described the position of ACUPCC in not accepting projects that avoid future emissions. We struggled with a clever name that would distinguish from the already existing green fee for REC’s (Green & Global Fund, Green Travel Fund). We discussed extending this strategy for business travel or athletic travel. Mike F. and Bethany distinguished differences between athletic travel and international study travel. This question is well beyond the scope of the present discussion.

Our final agenda topic was review and possible approval of the Climate Action Plan. Everyone had seen multiple draft versions of the entire plan and some individuals have closely edited and proofread sections. Elizabeth had shared with everyone a possible short version (19 vs. 30 pages) that could be used for public dissemination and the complete document reserved for internal use. The benefit of a document with less detail is that more people will read more of it. Bethany affirmed that a too-long document would discourage people from reading it. Steve suggested the background material was valuable for the reader to understand. After discussion, we agreed to use the longer version. We’ll investigate posting the document electronically and including hot links to the background information.

On motion by Liz and second by Steve, we voted unanimously to accept the Climate Action Plan.

Publication and distribution both on-campus and beyond was discussed. We will submit to ACUPCC electronically. We’ll communicate to Planning and Priorities Committee. Through President Roush, the CAP could come before the senior staff. Publication in Notesworthy and Cento and announcement through web-page article was suggested.

Discussion of web-page continued. Someone suggested there are many items that should or could be conveyed through a well-designed web-page. Preston was asked to follow up with Mike Norris.

As we were dismissing, Wayne shared some particularly exciting news. He has recently completed a feasibility study of certification of Norton Center through the LEED – Existing Building program. Heapy Engineering suggests that we may score 51 points, with possibility of more. Silver certification requires 50 points. This is still tentative and no public announcement should be made.