Presidents Climate Commitment
Meeting Notes
October 27, 2009

Present: Crowley, Fabritius, Hamm, Jamison, Miles, Noltemeyer, Nyerges, Pratt, Werner

Preston announced that Claude Stephens, ’80, has agreed to serve as alumni representative on our committee. Claude is currently the director of education/outreach for Bernheim Forest and is very interested both personally and professionally in questions of sustainability.

Patrick reported ongoing work in the Student Center to modify light switching. This will allow fewer lights to be used during daylight hours.

In discussion of what to do with the Sustainability Pledge. This can be added to the new student orientation as part of the jump drive and “movie credits” list. We will take the document to Council, Staff Congress, Student Government for endorsement/adoption. Then to senior staff for endorsement.

Everyone had seen the recent newspaper articles concerning the “C” rating that Centre received from the Sustainable Endowments Institute survey. We disagreed with some of the areas rated by this organization, while at the same time acknowledging that we can get good information from external evaluation. Our conclusion was to continue to participate in these external ranking/rating systems, to fill out the forms conscientiously and candidly, and to not over-react to the results.

Patrick and Bethany will review the material regarding the AASHE Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) and report their impressions.

Preston and Elizabeth will review the material regarding the CHEFS system offered by CA/CP and Aramark.

Preston reported conversation with Jerry Williams of 8760 Engineering. Jerry offered; that he has reviewed our GHG inventory and found no significant mistakes, that since air travel is a scope 3 activity we are not required to include it, that our energy costs per square foot are not high, that we have picked most of the low fruit, that additional efficiency improvements will not be easy. Most significant comment by Jerry was that he feels our goal of 25% reduction by 2020 is accomplishable.

We began a review of the main recommendations from the Climate Action Plan. We affirmed recommendations #1, 2, & 3. As they appear in the summary list, recommendation 4 is confusing with respect to #1. We need to re-work the narrative, so that the recommendations are more clear when presented as summary. Recommendation #5 should be made more bold, acknowledging the many good reasons for travel, but urging prudence.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 17, 11:15-12:15. Campus Center, room 210.