Presidents Climate Commitment
Meeting Notes
April 27, 2010

Members present: Crowley, Fabritius, Hamm, MacNabb, Miles, Messer, Noltemeyer, Pratt, Werner.

Guests: Aaron Edwards, Abby Malik, Lee Myers-White, Caroline Stephens, Kerri Howard

RecycleMania Scott reported that Centre recycled 13.7 pounds per person during the competition period. This ranked us #1 of 5 in Kentucky, #1 of 2 in SCAC, and #114 of 346 overall. Additionally, our overall year-to-date recycling is at 43 tons vs 36 tons at this point last year. This year, an additional 8 tons of e-waste has been recycled through an appropriate licensed waste hauler.

CMSGAT Caroline and Aaron felt that discussion of this issue has now died down at this point. Preston distributed a response memo that was distributed to the Facebook groups. General discussion suggested that more information should be provided next fall, possibly an additional forum. The question of making the air travel fee voluntary for the entire year was raised. Any decision on voluntary/required fee must be made by the International Study Committee and Global Citizenship Office. The suggestion was made to ask participants in alumni trips to participate in the fund.

Incorporation of sustainability into the curriculum Elizabeth continued discussion that had started at our last meeting, saying that curriculum modifications are part of the “commitment” and that sustainability should be incorporated into (almost) all courses. Comments included: do we mean all courses or all general education courses; we can anticipate some resistance from faculty on this; we should consider holding mini-workshops for faculty to support course development; don’t forget that our practices and facilities/classroom operations are a method for sustainability education; the revised HHP could be a venue for sustainability education; gen-ed science courses might be the type of courses most amenable to this; there may be opportunity for community-based learning. On motion by Mike Hamm we decided to recommend to Academic Standards committee that sustainability be considered as an additional criterion for all general education courses. Action Required. Miles will write memo, Hamm will present/advocate to CCAS next fall.

GROWS – Bethany reported that most of the garden materials were planted in April and now are thriving. A rotation schedule is in place for student volunteers to water and weed. The hope is that by Senior Week to supply greens for a dish in Cowan. Jamie Hester, a GSP instructor, has agreed to have her students care for the garden during the summer and plant new materials for fall harvest. Chef Brian has been very receptive to using garden products in Chowan. A pilot composting program has begun using pre-consumer food waste.
Phantom Load – Lee presented the results from his study of phantom load in dorm rooms, staff/faculty offices, and the public use computer labs on campus. All together, these unnecessary power drains account for almost 0.8% of our total electricity budget! Discussion suggested that a public information campaign to students and employees about the significance of phantom load and practices to reduce use. Subsequent to this PCC meeting, Lee met with Art Moore, Director of Information Technology, and presented his findings with regard to the public use computer labs. Art appreciated the information and the almost $2,500 in savings that are possible for this issue alone. Art will work with IT staff to change the formatting of those machines. Other suggestions included special power strips and recommendations about Energy Star appliances could be incorporated into the “move-in list”. Preston will follow up with Mary/Melissa/Mona/Ann.

Facilities Management Summer Projects -- Scott reviewed for our group the renovation projects that are planned or under consideration for this summer that can lead to energy efficiency improvements. (1) Nevin Hall will get new thermopane windows and replacement of old, inefficient fan coil units. (2) Carnegie Hall is getting new forced air-heat pump HVAC system to replace old fan coil units. (3) Craik House is getting new thermopane windows. (4) Renovation in Wiseman is being considered as a means to provide several new beds. If pursued, this will include increased insulation and energy efficiency measures. The Wiseman project is particularly attractive, since re-purposing of existing buildings is one of the most effective ways of advancing sustainability. We should continue to publicize the good work of Facilities Management.

GHG Inventory – Preston reported that the 2009 GHG inventory still has not been completed. The new target date for this will be summer 2010. Trish Bredar has replaced Laura Hansen as the summer work-study assistant.

Earth Day Festival – Abby and Elizabeth described the booth they organized for the community event. Brett exhibited the home-made composting barrel.

Other Stuff

• Double-sided printing. How come no progress has been made here? Make it “default” then faculty who don’t like it can make the change intentionally. What about Board packet? Preston should discuss this with Christine Shannon as new faculty president. Aaron will investigate and try to find the roadblock to default settings. This is a touchy subject and one we should encourage, but not require.
• How can sustainability be incorporated more widely? Preston has made presentations of the Climate Action Plan to Senior Staff (3/2) and Planning and Priorities Committee (3/9). Clarence Wyatt agreed to consider incorporating appropriate language into Strategic Plan. Discussion of modification to the College’s mission statement. Patrick will discuss with Richard Trollinger.
• Abby reports the Sustainable Centre website is under development. Brett’s winter term students will serve as the test group for this.
• Centre has decided to participate in the Sustainable Endowments Institute survey.
• All members of PCC Advisory Committee are invited to participate in the Visit Your Mother field trip to Mother Ann Lee hydrostation. May 8, 2pm, Shaker Landing.
• No progress on attitudes/understanding survey.
• We decided to have a May meeting to set plans and objectives for next year.