PCC Meeting Notes  
Sept 23, 2010

Members present: Crowley, Hamm, Jamison, Kagan-Moore, MacNabb, Malik, Miles, Messer, Noltemeyer, Nyerges, Stanley, Stephens, Werner.

Our agenda for this meeting was: introductions, discussion of charge, reports on webpage, GHG inventory, other recent activities, and development of goals for AY 10/11. The following is offered as “notes” and not minutes.

The charge of the committee –

- We are appointed ad hoc and annually
- To lead the College’s response to the ACUPCC
- To advise the President on related issues
- Development of college policy
- Development of a detailed plan for implementation of CAP
- Communicate previous actions and accomplishments
- Incorporate sustainability into the beliefs and lives of all staff and students

In discussion of our charge, the following additional points were made. This is the most important issue in the lives of our students and we should work hard to convey information. The newly reorganized Curriculum Committee is the venue for changes we might recommend for curriculum. A specific proposal will be necessary for success. Founders Day is an appropriate event for a campus-wide speaker on sustainability.

Abby Malik presented the recently completed web page http://www.centre.edu/sustainable_centre/. This report was met with a great deal of appreciation. Communication to the public has been a recognized goal of our committee for some time and this webpage was seen as an excellent vehicle toward that goal. Suggestions included: consider spotlight on specific students and special courses, include the winter shutdown, take care to avoid green-washing. The page will be live within a couple of weeks. It may be possible that a link will appear on the college homepage!

Preston reported on progress with GHG inventory. The 2010 inventory was due to ACUPCC on Sept 15. We hope to have the 2009 inventory complete for review by committee by November. No target date for 2010 inventory. There have been changes in Kentucky Utilities program for renewable energy certificates and the college is discussing direct contract with Lock 7 Hydro Partners.

Terry described the recent action of Danville City Council begin mandatory curbside recycling and the formation of a new Environmental Advisory Committee.

Elizabeth reviewed the Campus Sustainability Report Card published by Sustainable Endowments Institute. These external reviews have been effective in stimulating progress on many campuses within the A.C.S. She suggested we consider special campus-wide “events” as an effective way to draw attention to issues of importance. One possible event is the Campus Sustainability Day, Oct 20. Brett endorsed this strategy and pointed out there are several other “days” that are sponsored by national advocacy organizations (350.org, etc).
Scott reported year-end results for recycling: 74+ tons in 2010, c.f. 62 tons in 2009. In discussion, the importance of the context that total solid waste results was pointed out. Preston and Scott can follow-up with percent diversion information.

Caroline recommended a “facilities ride-along day”. This is a program at Warren-Wilson College that has potential to make our students more aware of sustainability issues on our campus and more appreciative of efforts of Facilities staff.

We concluded our meeting by identifying goals and projects for the committee and the College for this year. This discussion was closely related to the earlier conversation of the committee’s charge. We weren’t surprised to see the overlap or particularly worried about the overlap.

- Sponsor a strong convo speakers program
  - Campus forums are an additional approach
- Communicate our progress to this point to all members of campus community
  - Continued development of web page
- Address sustainability through the curriculum
  - This might be through general education program
  - This might be through new courses or new majors
- Develop a budget proposal that details the resources necessary to achieve the GHG reductions goals and that will meet our internal education goals
  - This might involve a campus-wide energy efficiency analysis
  - This might involve detailed estimates of cost & benefit for mechanical upgrades of specific buildings
  - This will necessitate external consultants and/or staff time (money to plan)
  - Continuing budget to support projects beyond traditional financial return