Jillian Embry was introduced as new member of our group, replacing Endre Nyerges who is on sabbatical leave for spring semester. Evan Shirley attended representing the student group ECCO.

Endre Nyerges prepared a careful and complete report on the first year activities of the Centre GROWS organization (copy attached). From the summary, “. . . the garden as a positive contribution to campus sustainability, with most of the benefits yet to come.” Realization of the full potential will require better organization, improved record keeping, and additional College support.” In discussion, we recognized the dilemma of increasing size and productivity to achieve greater visibility and service to Chowan that must be balanced with manpower continuity questions. Opportunities to explore are internships, or Americorp/Vista, or work-study staffing. Committee endorsed the plan and recommended it be forwarded to President Roush.

Brett Werner gave brief report on this spring’s activities of Centre GROWS: remodeling of raised beds, bed preparation for spring greens, selection of vegetables and herbs for summer 2011 season. Lisa Nesmith has volunteered to become a co-sponsor of the organization

Caroline Stephens reported several recent activities of students. Seven students, two employees, and one alumna participated in lobbying efforts in support of Kentucky Rising (sit-in of Govs office) and I Love Mountains Day (organized by KFTC, et alia) on Feb 13 & 14. Caroline showed some dramatic pictures of students with a banner. Emily Donlon is beginning plans for student participation in the PowerShift 2011 effort in Washington, D.C., on April 15-18.

http://energyactioncoalition.org/content/power-shift-2011-new-date-new-venue-still-bigger-and-better-ever

Judy Stanley referred back to our earlier discussion of methods we might use to bring sustainability issues to greater awareness on our campus. Judy volunteered to donate a burr oak sapling (hand-raised from an acorn in 2007) and the planting event could be a venue for promotion/publicity. The group was supportive of the offer. Three possible events were suggested: (a) collaboration with the Campus Beautification Committee and their efforts, (b) Earth Day, (c) collaboration with Bonner Scholars tree planting effort 4/8.

Steve Jamison reported a recent visit with Summit Energy. This firm provides services in several areas, including supply management, demand and efficiency consultation, and sustainability planning. One opportunity discussed by Summit was the cost savings possible by “virtual” consolidation of electricity and gas meters. The sub-group (Messer, Jamison, Noltemeyer, Miles) will follow-up with Summit and will consult with other companies providing similar services. The objective is to take a recommendation to President Roush for an action plan by early spring.
Patrick Kagan-Moore reported current plans for the first Presidents Convocation on Sustainability.

- Robert Musil has been scheduled as the featured speaker for Thursday March 17.
  - “The Environmental Crisis: Students are Ready to Lead”
- Screening of the movie “Home”, Wednesday evening March 16, Young auditorium
- Poetry reading arranged by Lisa Williams, Tuesday evening March 15, location TBA
- Lecture slam, possibly using Ignite or pechakucha style of presentations
- Trash theater, large puppets – Patrick’s students
- Promotion in Chowan, via TV’s in Campus Center, via Facebook “attack”
- Use the Laura Hansen slide show either before or after Musil event to communicate the recent accomplishments on campus. Laura will work with Adam Brown to update and expand the current slide show.

There was enthusiastic discussion of the opportunity this event will give to take sustainability concerns to the entire campus. There are significant details and scheduling to be worked on here. Abby and Elizabeth had good suggestions on publicity.

Abby Malik reported that Centre has recently been recognized as TreeCampusUSA. The award/designation is by the Arbor Day Foundation and is coordinated by the KY Department of Forestry. Abby and Don Good will represent the college at an award ceremony at the Governor’s Mansion in March.

Preston reported that Heapy Engineering has prepared the application for LEED certification for the recently completed Young Hall renovation. VERY PRELIMINARY indications are that the building will receive certification, possibly at an advanced level.

Scott Messer reported the results through the second week of the RecycleMania campaign.

Mike Ham invited members of the PCC committee to attend the public seminar presentations by candidates for the ACS environmental post-doc position. There are two candidates and their seminars will be March 1 and 7, both at 4pm in Crounse 313.

Next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 17. Dr. Musil will be our guest for this meeting.