

SEEAC Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 17th, 2014
TILT 104

Members Present: Carol Dollard - Facilities Management
Becca Wren - Facilities Management
Dell Rae Ciaravola – External Relations
Kortny Rolston – External Relations
Meagan Dechen - STARS Intern
Stacey Baumgarn - Facilities Management
Farrah Bustamante - Procurement Services
Doug Max - Athletics
Jacob Kimiecik - Student Sustainability Center
Sheela Backen - Facilities Management
Jocelyn Hittle - Denver Operational Initiatives
Aleta Weller – School of Global Environmental Sustainability
Andrew Warnock – Energy Institute
Brian Dunbar – Institute for the Built Environment
Tom Weeks – Procurement Services

I. Introductions -

II. RecycleMania Update -

- The RecycleMania Competition will run from **February 2nd-March 29th, 2014**.
- In week 5, Colorado State University is in 36th place, with a 47.053% recycling rate.
- Though the recycling rate has remained consistent as compare to past years, the trash rate has gone up.
- The Waste Audit was held on March 5th and the results were enlightening – the amount of things that could have been recycled or composted has gone down, but there is still a significant amount of trash.
- A question of recycling at athletic events was raised. How can we engage or educate students about waste at sporting events?
- Sheela answered that it is difficult to find volunteers to go to Hughes Stadium for games and stand in front of the trashcans to ensure people are not incorrectly throwing recyclable material away.
- Doug added that he has found budgetary limitations frustrating – An aggressive recycling program at all athletic events would cost about \$30,000/yr.
- Sheela estimated that about 40% of waste is put in the recycling bins on a regular game night.
- She also said she would find it helpful if CSUnity organizers could focus on recycling items in site cleanups, rather than just trashing everything in a dumpster. She has found challenges in implementing this, however.
- Doug then said that he is excited about the sustainable features of the new stadium design.
- He also said that if anyone has any great ideas about recycling in athletics, he is open to hearing them.
- Farrah asked if the waste audit results showed prime examples of recyclable items that could be enforced in marketing and education, to show students what they should be recycling.
- Carol said the biggest recyclable item found in the trash was plastic water bottle, which seems obvious as a recyclable item.

III. Earth Week Event Finalization -

- **Thursday, April 17** - Energy Institute Grand Opening – six tours during the day starting at 12:00, then a public open house from 3:00-5:30.
- **Monday, April 21** –Biodiversity Ignite talk
- **Monday, April 21**, 7:00 pm – John Fielder 50 Years of Wilderness exhibit/talk, – Griffin Concert Hall

- **Monday, April 21** – Sustainable Building Guest Speaker - Nancy Kralik – Chemistry A103
- **Tuesday, April 22, 7:30pm** - "Gasland II" Documentary Screening – BSB 131
- **Tuesday, April 22** – Earth Day Festival will be held on West Lawn due to construction on plaza. There may be lower traffic on the West Lawn but there will also be less space limitations.
- **Wednesday, April 23** – Collaborative Colorado Panel: A group of different student clubs in NR are banding together to present an interdisciplinary panel of speakers on a conservation topic.
- **Thursday, April 24** – Earth, Sun, and Fire Tour: A free bus tour to the Foothills Campus to see the Composter, the solar panel array, and the biomass boiler.
- **Thursday, April 24** - Tree Campus USA/Arbor Day Tree Planting with CSFS
- **Friday, April 25** – Ewaste Collection and Compost Giveaway
- Others?
 - CBAC (Campus Bicycle Advisory Committee) has interest in holding a transportation fair the week before Earth Week. Aaron Fodge will follow up on exact date.
 - **Saturday, April 5th** - CSUnity, EcoLeaders to contribute to sustainable projects.
- If you are a member of a group or department that would like to have a table on the West Lawn for the Earth Day celebration, do not forget to register for the table.

IV. Timeline/history of sustainability at CSU –

- Kortny Rolston from External Relation would like to create a document outlining the history and progression of sustainability at CSU.
- Carol advised Kortny to contact Nik Olsen in the President’s Office to review the Green Tome, a very dense document showing the history of CSU’s sustainable projects.
- SEEAC members will try to add information where applicable.

V. STARS Update –

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0mjQKwOAHLE> (link to CTV article about STARS report)
- Currently, CSU still has the highest score in the STARS program.
- Megan asked for the committee’s input on a STARS credit asking how *“The institution is utilizing its infrastructure and operations for multidisciplinary student learning, applied research, and practical work that advances sustainability on campus in at least one of the following areas (10 to claim full points) – Air & Climate, Buildings, Dining Services, Energy, Grounds, Purchasing, Transportation, Waste, Water, Coordination, Planning & Governance, Diversity & Affordability, Health, Wellbeing, & Work, Investment, Public Engagement, and Other.*
- Possible projects to consider –
 - Grey water project in Aspen Hall
 - IBE initiatives such as the sustainable site evaluation
 - Investment Club,
 - Research reporting and career development training in SoGES
 - Dr. Blehm’s Waste Management class
 - NWSS student research
 - Center for Public Deliberation,
 - Student research about fertilizer types and turf types
 - Partnership with Harmony Golf Club
 - A sociological study of student behavior at athletic events
 - Procurement Services is looking to develop an office supply contract with a green catalog and will look for student input
 - Clean Car
 - Engines Lab
 - Aspen Grille – Hospitality Management class

- Another optional STARS credit - "A brief description of the institution's employee community service initiatives"
- Possible programs to consider
 - Make a Difference Day
 - Volunteer in Public Schools
 - School is Cool
 - Cans around the Oval
- Dell Rae will put Meagan in contact with the College Communicators, who could provide a big picture explanation of sustainable projects within their college.

VI. Student Sustainability Survey –

- Jeff Cook has written and delivered a sustainability survey to a representative sample of students.
- 725 students responded to the survey.
- 84% of respondents agreed that sustainability is important to the University.
- 86% of respondents agreed that sustainability is personally important to them.
- 35 % of respondents feel unsure of how to be an advocate for sustainable initiatives on campus.
- There were many comments focused on the banning of plastic bags and plastic water bottles.

VII. Mini-Retreat Recap –

New name discussion

- Campus Sustainability Committee
- President's Sustainability Committee
- University Sustainability Committee
- "Council" and "Commission" were both rejected as they make the group sound temporary.
- Aleta suggested "University Sustainability Committee" is more inclusive than "Campus Sustainability Committee" but "Campus Sustainability Committee" sounds better.
- "President's Sustainability Committee" carries more weight but could make students feel unwelcome.
- Carol & Tonie will send the two favorite options (President's & University) to Amy Parsons for final selection, with "President's Sustainability Committee" as the top choice.

Mission discussion

- Two distinct mission statements were created at the mini-retreat -
 - "Promote and facilitate the effective integration of sustainability across all aspects of the University including academics, research, operations, student engagement, administration & public outreach."
 - "Advise the President on campus-wide sustainability initiatives including but not limited to STARS, community & public partnerships, strategic planning & budgets."
- *A discussion of the wording led to a shortening of the statement. The abbreviated version will be presented to Amy parsons along w/ the suggestions for the committee name.*

Membership discussion

- The committee should be as inclusive as possible. However, the committee should avoid overwhelming itself with too many members, which will cause a loss in functionality.
- Aleta is supportive of forming subcommittees to involve other people in the overall goals of the committee.
- Stacey noted that the size of the SEEAC email list is unimportant. If a goal of the committee is to inform people of sustainability efforts, why not have a larger email list.
- Each SEEAC member could act as a connection between SEEAC and his or her department, to connect as many resources as possible.
- Meagan added that it might be helpful for the committee to develop a web presence, apart from green.colostate.edu. This will engage more stakeholders into the committee's initiative without overwhelming the size of the group.

- SEEAC minutes and agendas could be uploaded to the website, so other parties can see what projects have been discussed.
- If SEEAC members are uncomfortable with having names attached to comments found in the minutes, the names can be redacted or anonymous.
- Website infrastructure is hard to facilitate and it may be a challenge to find a manager for the website.
- The website could help the committee clearly communicate to a larger audience. It will also help in the transparency of the STARS report.
- Aleta suggested that the next STARS reporting cycle should be advertised on the SEEAC website to get more input from other groups who may be less visible.

Goals discussion

- With no staff and a very limited budget, SEEAC cannot take large actions in many sustainable projects.
- The committee should instead focus on connecting people to the resources they need.
- STARS can be used as a framework of progress in sustainability.
- SEEAC requested to have input in the programmatic planning of buildings before construction begins.
- A goal of the committee is to appropriately advise President Frank in matters of sustainability.

Next Steps

- Carol and Tonie will present information to Amy Parsons, who will invite new members and advise on the SPARC process.
- After the new committee name is selected, a new email address will be set up.
- Doug mentioned that the SPARC process is where SEEAC can be most effective, with a set budget for sustainable projects.
- Stacey said he would find it helpful to have a planning document outlining the timing of key deadlines and cycles such as SPARC submittals, STARS submittals, etc.
- Megan has a similar document which she will adjust to reflect the needs of SEEAC.

VIII. Updates from Members -

Carol Dollard -

- Wind power on the Western Colorado Research Center is being investigated. The site is a great, windy area but the project will not be developed until 2018. Carol anticipates that students will be involved in the environmental evaluation of the site.
- Carol also mentioned that she has a spreadsheet detailing all of the CSU STARS credits. SEEAC members might find this information helpful and the spreadsheet will be distributed.
- The Sierra Club is interested in starting a student chapter at CSU. Jacob could be the point of contact between the Sierra club and interested students.

Aleta Weller

- The Ram Bicycle Classic has been scheduled for September 21. This bicycle ride is a partnership between GSSE, SoGES, and IBE.

Stacey Baumgarn

- Stacey took a tour of CU Boulder's new LEED-platinum, 336,800-sqft laboratory. Stacey is hopeful that CSU can work towards similar laboratory buildings.

Andrew Warnock

- Andrew will be sending an invitation to the Energy Institute's Open House soon.

Jacob Kimiecik

- The SSC will publish two articles in the Collegian when school resumes. One article will focus on the results of the student sustainability survey that Jeff sent and the other will detail two student initiatives to ban plastic bags and plastic water bottles.

Brian Dunbar

- Brian will be attending the Green Schools National Conference in a few weeks. At this conference, a framework for sustainable schools modeled after CSU will be presented. Other schools can look at this as a roadmap towards being more sustainable.
- IBE will be hosting a 3 day workshop at the beginning of April. The workshop will analyze the implementation of software that shows how architects and engineers could use carbon footprint information to build more effective and sustainable buildings.

Meagan Dechen

- Megan submitted two different joint-proposals to speak at the AASHE conference this fall. The announcement of accepted speakers will hopefully be made soon.

Sheela Backen

- Sheela has more information about a scholarship to a 2-day recycling conference in Colorado Springs, awarded by the Colorado Association for Recycling.

Jocelyn Hittle

- Jocelyn has hired a master planning teams for the National Western Stock Show project. She is hosting a visioning session at the end of April and she has asked that SEEAC think of iconic or creative examples of architecture. The example could be CSU related or not, she is mainly looking for creativity.

IX. Next meeting: Monday, April 21st - 1-2:30 pm, TILT 104