

UA Sustainability Committee March 8, 2010 Meeting

Present: Fred Cowett, Frank DiSalvo, Fil Eden, Marty Hatch, Dan Roth, Zellman Warhaft

ACTION ITEMS:

- Letter in support of a Sustainability Committee within the GPSA will be sent to the GPSA.
 - Draft of letter requesting undergraduate representation on the Marcellus Shale Committee will be sent to USC members for their edits, to be returned to Marty Hatch by Wednesday March 10.
 - The next Committee meet is scheduled for April 12, 2010 at 12:15 pm.
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AGENDA:

I. Consideration of Letter to GPSA in Sustainability Committee within the GPSA

- The Committee discussed a letter drafted by Fred Cowett and addressed to the GPSA supporting the creation of a permanent, standing Sustainability Committee within the GPSA.
- There is currently an Ad-hoc Sustainability Committee within the GPSA.
- Creation of a permanent, standing Sustainability Committee would demonstrate a commitment to sustainability by the GPSA, provide a forum for graduate student interest in issues related to sustainability, and emphasize to the entire Cornell community sustainability's importance and significance.
- The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the draft letter and the letter will be sent to the GPSA.

II. Jeanine Crouse Leaving the Committee

- The Committee was informed that Jeanine Crouse, the Employee Assembly representative to the Committee, is leaving the Committee.
- Jeanine will be replaced by Linda Croll Howell (llc36) from the Office of Workforce Diversity & Inclusion.

III. Discussion Regarding Lack of Undergraduate Member on Marcellus Shale Committee

- Resolutions passed by the Faculty Senate and University Assembly regarding Marcellus Shale called for student representation on the advisory committee charged with advising the University.
- One graduate student was appointed by Provost Fuchs to the Marcellus Shale Ad Hoc Advisory Committee, but an undergraduate student was not appointed.
- The Committee discussed the absence of an undergraduate representative on the Marcellus Shale Committee and decided this absence needs to be addressed.
- The Committee drafted a letter to President Skorton and Provost Fuchs requesting that an undergraduate representative be appointed to the Marcellus Shale Committee so that undergraduate students are represented in all of this committee's deliberations.
- Marty Hatch will send the letter by e-mail to University Sustainability Committee members who will then submit proposed edits by Wednesday March 10.
- A final draft of the letter will be sent to President Skorton and Provost Fuchs on Thursday March 11.

IV. Update on Earth Week Activities and Events

- Dan Roth reported on activities and events for Earth Week:
 - 25-30 people representing 20 organizations attended the Earth Week organizational meeting in February.
 - The meeting succeeded in bringing organizations together; these organizations were mostly comprised of students.

- K.C. Alvey, the Student Sustainability Intern the Cornell Office of Energy and Sustainability, is taking the lead in coordinating Earth Week activities and events.
- K.C. will be e-mailing a reminder this week to organizations about sending to her notices of their Earth Week events so that these events can be posted to Cornell's Events Calendar; a Sustainability tag will be added to these events.
- Mark Lawrence of Cornell's Center for a Sustainable Future will also post notices of events to the Center's website as part of Sustainability Month.
- Linda Hogarty is designing an Earth Week poster that will contain a sampling of major events.
- If necessary, K.C. will organize a second organization meeting for Earth Week activities and events.

V. Discussion Regarding New President's Sustainable Campus Committee

- President Skorton will be appointing a new President's Sustainable Campus Committee.
- This new committee will kick-off in April and is intended to provide on-going oversight and progress reports on the implementation of initiatives to promote a sustainable campus.
- It is envisioned as a successor committee to the PCC Implementation Committee associated with the Climate Action Plan; it will be accountable to the President.
- It is not duplicative of the University Sustainability Committee which is more focused on suggesting policy, provides a voice independent of the Administration, and advises the University Assembly.
- The University Sustainability Committee suggests that the new Sustainable Campus Committee should recognize in its website the role to be played by the USC and work with the USC to find ways in which the two committees can interact with each other to their mutual benefit.