

UA Sustainability Committee May 10, 2010 Meeting

Present: Jolyon Bloomfield, Fred Cowett, Frank DiSalvo, Fil Eden, Marty Hatch, Zellman Warhaft

ACTION ITEMS:

- **There is no scheduled date for the next committee meeting.**
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AGENDA:

I. Presentation by Mike Walsh, graduate student representative to the University's Board of Trustees and member of the PCC Implementation Committee that drafted the Climate Action Plan, regarding prospective changes to sustainability committees and their roles on campus, including the USC

- Ways are being sought to engage more effectively campus constituencies interested in sustainability to generate greater community impact.
- Some questions being debated: What should be the role of the USC within the campus community? What should be the role of the UA with regard to sustainability and the role of the USC in supporting the UA? Will the UA take "legislative authority" over sustainability?
- Formalizing legislative authority over sustainability could be a means to strengthen community engagement over this issue.
- Some differences exist in interpretation as to what legislative authority entails: Does it mean working with administrators to craft policy and guidelines or passing a set of rules that administrators then must follow?
- "Legislative authority" differs from "proposal authority" in which actions and items are suggested.
- Rethinking how to best structure the UA to best meet the needs of the campus community: Can it be an official channel for communal concerns, aims, and goals?
- How should formal authority be framed with respect to sustainability, including community buy-in and engagement with such items as the Climate Action Plan (CAP)?
- How can the USC best facilitate buy-in and engagement with respect to sustainability?
- PSCC's role will be as an executive oversight committee with responsibility for implementing CAP; it will delegate work to working groups in key areas; working groups may or may not have student members.

II. Discussion Following the Presentation Regarding Future Role for the USC

- The UA has an advisory capacity, provides clearinghouse for policies; the USC was formed within legislative authority and has an advisory role on campus; there could be some middle ground between legislative and proposal authority, providing the USC a stronger role.
- Is there tangible benefit to legislative authority? Yes, codifying legislative authority creates more official capacity and then university administrators have more need to respond to the UA.
- The USC's focus should be on policy in cooperation with different administrative bodies on campus.
- The USC could be a central hub for sustainability information on campus.
- The USC does not have the resources to function as an information hub; there is no way to create a hub without a paid full time staff person.
- The USC should provide a wider forum and be more broadly responsive to campus; its meetings should be widely advertised and serve an educational function for the campus community as a whole.
- Responsibility for organizing campus wide meetings and educating the campus community about sustainability more properly belongs to the university administration which could sponsor such meetings once a month; the USC is better suited to making policy recommendations in an advisory capacity.

III. Brief Discussion Regarding Summer Meetings

- Little interest was expressed in holding committee meetings during the summer.
- There is no scheduled date for the next committee meeting.

IV. Welcome to Jolyon Bloomfield and Goodbye to Fil Eden

- Jolyon is one of two GPSA members added by the UA to the Sustainability Committee.
- Fil graduates this summer and is therefore leaving the committee which thanks him for the contributions he has made.