

Sustainability and Learning Committee

Nov. 1, 2007

Present: Susie Cousar, Roger Ebbage, Kyle Hammon, Jennifer Hayward, Will Klausmeier, Claudia Owen, Margaret Robertson, Larry Scott

Announcements

Jennifer made the following announcements:

- www@StepItUp2007.org is organizing a Climate Crisis Action march/rally on Sat. Nov. 3 at 12:00 PM to 03:00 PM meet in the EMU Amphitheater at the University of Oregon Campus to promote the idea of 80% reduction in carbon emissions by the year 2050.
- Kyle, Jennifer Roger met in Cottage Grove – South Lane School District. The theme of Kennedy High School, in the South Lane School District, is sustainability. Jennifer reported the action items that came out of the meeting, including:
 - Kennedy HS principle is to schedule Lane faculty to go to Kennedy HS to do presentations for students on career pathways (probably Roger and Larry)
 - Jennifer is to ask Lane faculty if they would like to discuss opportunities for service learning at Kennedy HS.
- Larry reported that he is building sustainability pathways

Will announced that Greening of Small Businesses is coming along with increasing enrollment. There was a good turnout for the last speaker who spoke on climate change.

Susie shared information about the Science Sustainability meeting with Mary Brau. Mary told the group about Recognition Awards:

- They can be given out by entities such as Science or the Sustainability and Learning Committee. Sarah Ulerich suggested that the sustainability and Learning committee put out these awards to students, possibly having different levels of achievement. This would support a cross disciplinary approach to these issues and also promote our existing courses in this area throughout college depts.
- We can list courses a student has taken such as a course of study in sustainability within the catalog, but not all students use this and counselors will need to be trained about using these or helping to promote them if students show an interest in sustainability programs.

Discussion about options for degrees, awards etc. report from Mary Brau and other options to consider

- Susie suggested that once a course of study had been established and we work on articulation with universities, students getting an AAOT or ASOT or transferring might have a better chance getting into a program at one of Oregon's universities that otherwise might be difficult to get into. Universities will want our students. A Recognition Award might be a way that we could promote that a course of study in sustainability was completed at Lane.
- Kyle will work on articulation agreements. Shirley Lucacs and Rich Freund should be able to help with the process.
- Susie will talk with Mary Brau about the likelihood of having an option for PSU students to take course at Lane to get their bachelors degree in an area of sustainability. The nursing program is

working with OHSU to have a bachelors in Nursing, so the rationale for having a bachelors degree on campus already exists. This kind of program would promote students coming to lane for their early coursework that would lead to get into this degree program.

- We agreed that Recognition Awards could have levels, to imitate LEED, of silver, gold, and platinum. These would reflect increasing levels of completed course work.
- Who will monitor this stuff? Jennifer said that there might be money to fund a part-time position for this. More to follow-up on this as we move along in the progress of things.

Green Stamp for classes, discussion an update

- Larry suggested that rather than have a list of requirements for classes to get a green stamp, we could use a set of guidelines where a course needs to meet 2 out of 5 criteria or some such arrangement.
- Claudia shared a concern, one she also shares, brought up to her by John Thompson, who has a conflict with our meeting times. John said he did not feel that he could claim that his organic chemistry course has 50% sustainability content although he teaches green chemistry principles and infuses the course with sustainability ideas. Claudia thought that courses that taught useful technical content that might not explicitly be sustainability material but that provided a basic core of knowledge useful in a sustainability context ought to be included.
- The group agreed that John's course and the active role of his students in the Green Chemistry Club with the addition of the biodiesel project, is a good example of a course that could easily be eligible for a green stamp.
- Susie did bring up the question of John being willing to add to his course if needed to meet criteria that would ensure that it is 50% sustainability focused since the group did agree to this criteria at an earlier meeting. The group would like John's input for wording of our criteria for a green stamp and to re-look at his course and the course description to see if it can meet that standard when he looks at the things that are imbedded into his curriculum.
- The group also discussed concerns in watering down the criteria to the point that just about any class could be green stamped as a sustainability course. We also discussed that if faculty really wanted their course to have this stamp, they could make some changes to current course content to include more sustainability, rather than to change the criteria to make it easier for existing courses to qualify. The criteria will be sent out again for people to look at and give feedback with suggestions for changes that would still maintain the current 50% criteria but help instructors to use a different lens in evaluating their imbedded course content, examples used etc. Please send the feedback for how to evaluate a course for sustainability content to Susie.
- The group had a general discussion about whether a course should receive a green stamp or whether it should be tied to an individual instructor. Points raised included the following:
 - Course content is faculty dependent.
 - Instructors directed to include sustainability in their courses could do actual damage if they did not understand the material or were philosophically opposed to the idea.
 - If courses would receive the stamp, the course description/outcomes should be rewritten if necessary to make clear that anyone teaching the course, not just the current instructor(s) would still teach a course that met the criteria of the green stamp.
 - Instructors should take sustainability training

- We could have part of the requirement to get an award be that students would have to apply for them. Only students who really wanted them and would use them would bother applying. Otherwise it might be quite involved to track all students on campus to see if they were eligible.
- ???Roger made a point that I did not manage to write down.
- ???Will also said something about volunteering, web site, coops and greenstamps that I missed.
- It will be difficult or impossible to put a green leaf symbol next to courses on Banner but Banner can give a letter symbol and font colors can be changed.
- Jennifer said that asking for sustainability support staff to do things like track and distribute the recognition awards could be discussed at the visioning meeting on Nov. 29.
- Susie mentioned that it would be nice to have more social science people take part in the Sustainability and Learning Committee meetings. Stan Taylor is on our list but has not attended meetings. Susie has contacted him about working together on Peace and Sustainability due to the interconnected nature of these areas but has not heard back from him yet.
- Susie requested that all faculty members present at the meeting today should give her a list of outcomes in their sustainability courses that relate to sustainability to aid in building an outcomes list. Everyone agreed to do this. Susie will send out a request by e-mail to everyone.
- Larry pointed out that Coop Ed courses had outcomes specific to the student so that they would need to be handled differently. We don't want to miss these opportunities.

Training for staff on infusion of sustainability into existing courses

- It was agreed that whoever went to the train the trainer conference in San Diego this summer would come back and do a short training for the committee. Susie sent out a request to Tammie but has not heard back yet, she will resend and find out when and how long the presentation will be.
- Larry suggested that at some point we could produce an interactive CD for training. He will follow up to see how to make one. Information is available for content from the AASHE Website. The CD could have a test to check competency level.

Task list groups/help

- People who have a task should meet with other members of their task group before the next Sustainability and Learning meeting (at least by e-mail) so that some progress can be made. Groups should report on their progress at the next meeting.
- Roger agreed to act as a consultant for Susie for the Environmental Health and Wellness Specialist or Technician AAS. There are many jobs available in this field. OSHA certifications are available online as well as Environmental Health Specialist Certificates of completion. These would be promoted and if possible facilitated for students in this program.
- Roger reported that the Water Conservation AAS is going great and goes to the board on Nov. 6th.
Library choices for our books
- The plan for the Sustainability books for the library is to put them on reserve if there are not too many. Jennifer agreed to let Nadine at the Library know how many there are.

Scribe: Claudia Owen

Assistant editor; Susie Cousar, Jennifer Hayward