

Minutes
Sustainability & Learning
Thursday, February 21, 2008 • 3:00 – 4:00 pm • Building 5, Room 115

Attendees:

Susie Cousar, Jennifer Hayward, Kyle Hammon, Will Klausmeier, Michael Levick, Margaret Robertson, Larry Scott

Minutes:

1. Announcements

Jennifer will speak in Will's Sustainability for Small Businesses class February 27. The National Conference on Sustainability for Community Colleges will be held at Lane April 16 and 17; proposals for presentations are encouraged. Local non-profit director Lorraine Kerwood is a Volvo for Life finalist; her organization was named Cooperative Education Site of the Year.

Sustainability for Small Businesses Presentation

The group brainstormed topics Jennifer might include when speaking to Sustainability for Small Businesses. Will reported that the class has open enrollment and is typically 10-12 students, with members from food services and vendors, bed and breakfasts, home renovation, and nonprofit organizations including Helios; there are often young people in the audience. People are encouraged to come, even if they are not registered. The focus is pragmatic, helping students see how things related to their business. The chronology is not strict; topics have included how to take a responsible position to climate change, carbon credits, and sustainable business models, with a guest speaker from Good Company and a speaker from Next Step in March.

Suggestions included: Current classes and programs in the sustainability area. Operations, with Lane as a business. A description of Lane's process. Say that this is a continual process; don't be discouraged if you can't do everything; just get started. Conceptual models; for example, the Natural Step and Sirius Principles. Will noted that two classes have gone into that, but it is a little more conceptual than the class needs. They need an understanding of what that model embodies. It is similar to Claudia's program in Science, where sustainability is worked into the program in an integral way. Larry asked if a behavioral approach was discussed; Will said yes, that Kelly from Good Company did the best job there, talking about how you get the individual to buy into the process; realize that this isn't political, it is fundamental. Another suggestion was life cycle analysis; Will said the motivation is savings. The original idea for the class was to do a business audit before and after a cost analysis, but Will noted that these businesses are too small for this approach to be effective. Everyone is motivated by the many little changes.

2. Reports

Website:

Susie reported that Lorie Brennan will give her a website password. Jennifer has been updating the website. The task list will be posted there. Members should review, add to, and critique the links. Links are currently from the Global Health class. Larry suggested linking to Karen Kaplan's U of O site, which has good content and is well organized. Susie suggested including principles, not just links. Larry commented that this takes time and must be updated; Michael commented that every time you do something on the Web, you are committed to maintain it. "Never create material you can steal." Larry noted that the website should first and foremost highlight what we are doing; we should focus on that.

ACTION: Each member will go look at the website and provide comments.

ACTION: Susie will add the Sustainability & Learning task list to the website.

Degree Requirements and Course of Study:

Margaret reported a meeting with Mary Brau. Regarding AAS degrees, there is no minimal requirement that program content be from any one program or discipline; a fully-interdisciplinary program is possible. Regarding AS and AAOT degrees, there are no majors *per se*. Mary encouraged us to develop a Course of Study to insert into the catalog. Ethnic Studies is an example of an interdisciplinary course of study; Pre-engineering is an example of a transfer course of study carefully articulated with a four-year program. Margaret distributed a proposed Sustainability course of study which she and Susie have been developing.

Larry noted that this ties in well with the Green Stamp initiative. We can design a generic program: You need [x] choices from this category, and have a number of alternatives from which to choose. We can create a flexible, interdisciplinary degree. The challenge is the Career Pathway. Valuable courses in Energy Management and Water Conservation are not transferable. This leaves out a valuable component, and needs to be addressed. He proposed investigating how to make some of these transferable. Susie noted that Water Conservation is a good example; this program should be transferable.

Larry and Kyle noted that even though there is a WR 123 requirement, we may require a particular WR 123: for example, the Learning Community taught by Cliff Trolin, Ellen Cantor, and Jerry Hall. Larry suggested adding a Co-op to the list, and is willing to set up a Sustainability Co-op.

Green Stamp Program:

The group discussed the connection to the Green Stamp program. Susie noted that we should get a course Green-Stamped first before we list it in a course of study, and so we should not list the course of study in the 2008-09 catalog. Larry noted that we need to know for sure that a course has sustainability content; plus a course of study would defeat the purpose of the Green Stamp. The group agreed that we would complete the Green Stamp process first, then complete the course of study for fiscal year 2010. Michael asked whether topics like population and zero population growth are covered; Larry and Susie said yes and gave examples from economics (Intro to Environmental and Natural Resource Economics), political science (Environmental Politics), and peace studies (Peace and Conflict Studies: Global; National; Local).

Susie reported that she, Jennifer, and Margaret will present the Green Stamp concept to Faculty Council on April 11. Then, we will check in with Sonya Christian. Larry commented that the most important thing is to get buy-in from faculty. Larry does a report on sustainability in every Faculty Council. Jennifer suggested asking Mary to mention the program in the spring conference. Larry suggested we market this as an opportunity; it is not being forced.

Kyle reported that he looked into getting a green seal. Marking classes with icons in the class schedule was not well received, but he did not ask about the online catalog. There are characters in a text field we edit every year, then send the file to course builders. We can say, please include this text in your schedule and catalog. We cannot do notes in Banner; it is not allowed.

Jennifer suggested we ask for endorsement in a joint Faculty Council/Learning Council meeting.

3. Next Meeting: March 20; location: TBD. Meetings are the 3rd Thursday of every month.

Minutes prepared by: Margaret Robertson. Date: March 9, 2008.