

Sustainability and Learning Meeting Minutes

Jan. 29, 2009, 3:30-5:00PM

Present: Susie Cousar, Jennifer Hayward, Claudia Owen, Bert Pooth, Robbie Wolfard (student)

- **The curriculum committee approved the use of the Sustainability Course Approval form!** This means that we have a specific process in place for determining which courses are Sustainability Focused (please see attached final version of the form).
 - Implementation for sustainability focused course application process was discussed. Consensus was that the process should be similar to the ethnic, gender and diversity requirement form. The Curriculum Approval Committee would forward applications to the Sustainability and Learning Committee for us or a sub-committee of three reps. to provide a recommendation. At least one of the members of our committee would then represent us at a Curriculum on the date the course was to be approved. This person would share our views on whether the course met the criteria or if it needed some modifications, or was rejected.
 - The goal of having a process for identifying sustainability focused courses is to eventually have a state sustainability requirement for higher education. We also would like to have the catalog list the course that are sustainability focused and the ones that are also infused.
 - Claudia reported that the science sustainability group also wanted to have the form as a way to establish to ensure that courses that are planned for the Science Sustainability Course of Study really were sustainability courses and not just green washed.
 - Sustainability focused courses are different from infused courses in that the development and content of the class is primarily focused on the economic, ecological and social issues that impact sustainability-even if the content is delivered from the perspective of a specific discipline. The syllabus will clearly show that all of the aspects of sustainability are within the course outcomes as well. We also need to get the word out for others to
 - Sustainability Infused classes should incorporate economic, ecological and social aspects of sustainability into the existing curriculum where feasible but the course will be primarily focused on the discipline specific content with sustainability as a thread within the course. We talked about having the faculty who are infusing fill out the form, or another less specific form for ensuring an accurate list in the catalog. Susie will create another version of this form that is more geared toward infused courses, so that people could apply directly to the committee if they wanted their courses mentioned in the catalog. More on this to come.
 - **We need to get the word out to people to start applying for their courses to be established as Sustainability Focused courses.**
 - Susie indicated that she would put a notice in the weekly.
 - Jennifer suggested information could be put up on the Sustainability Web site.
 - Bert offered to announce it at the faculty council.
 - Also Jennifer suggested we could send it to instructional managers via Sonya Christian.
 - Susie will report to Sonya on what we have accomplished.

- **New proposed Sustainability Coordinator AAS degree program was presented** including a list of courses in the 2-year program laid out by term. The group was asked if they saw any holes in the program. Jennifer mentioned that waste disposal was very important and asked where it was in the program. Claudia mentioned that ENV5 181 covers waste disposal and recycling as part of its normal course content and is planning to enhance that part of the course to meet the AAS program needs. Jennifer indicated that she would also cover the more specific practical aspects of waste disposal and

recycling in her seminar course for the AAS. Jennifer also asked about water conservation and Claudia indicated that it is covered in ENVS 183 and that she would be sure that the people teaching the course emphasize that part.

- The division proposed to house the AAS Sustainability Coordinator degree is Advanced Technology. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of this subject and degree it was proposed that the coordinator of the program could include faculty from outside of Advanced Tech. if they had a desire to coordinate the program and they have been involved with sustainability on campus. The position would need to be at least a two year commitment to be effective and it must have a built in transition process for the next faculty coordinator. Margaret Robertson would be a good first candidate for this position since she resides in this division already.
- **The National Teach-in on Global Warming is Feb. 5.** Everyone should teach on this subject on that day or the day before or after if the class does not meet on Thursdays. Jennifer has organized a program for students and faculty for 2:30-4 in the boardroom that will include a Web cast and a panel discussion. The main theme is, as climate advocate leaders, what you can do to make a difference. Another aspect is to emphasize the first 100 days of the Obama administration to write letters and try to get as much done politically in that time as possible. Susie Cousar (Health and PE), Claudia Owen (Science), and Phil Martinez (Econ.) will be presenters/panelists. The last teach-in panel we had filled the boardroom. OSPIRG has posted a flier around campus. Jennifer e-mailed the flier/poster to Sustainability members.
- **Infusion project update** – This is to train faculty in the three pillars of sustainability: ecological, economic and social; and how to infuse these subjects into any class a person teaches. Trainers will train 10 more people and then each of those 10 more until we have saturated the campus with sustainability trained faculty. The goal stated in the grant was to reach 220 people. Feedback on the last training was that it was not sufficiently detailed. Everyone who has not taken the training yet should do so. **Please help advertise for this training, it is 2-18-09 (next week) and dinner is provided!**
- **The Sustainability and Learning Committee wants to collaborate with the Peace Charter** Committee about the Peace Conference in May. Stan Taylor is involved with that committee. A number of our members are planning to go to the next Peace Committee meeting whenever that is. Bert, Jennifer, Susie, Robbie, and Claudia all expressed interest in attending and to possibly take some part in helping with the event.

Next Sustainability Infusion Training will be Feb. 18 from 3 to 7PM. Susie and Tammie Stark will run this one.