

Sustainability and Learning Committee

Sept. 26, 2007, 4:00-5:00 pm Science 211

Present: Susie Cousar, Margaret Robertson, Larry Scott, Joe Russin, Roger Ebbage, Claudia Owen

Susie provided a chart of last year's Sustainability and Learning Committee goals and a potential list of projects for the 2007/08 year. Some of last years goals are still in the process of being completed. Susie will get our initial mission statement goals with values/ethical guidelines onto the web this term.

The group reviewed the S & L Master Project list and suggested the following people to work on the various projects. Comments about the projects were discussed and are included below. The group agreed that all of the projects on the list should remain on the list and the group would work together to ensure completion of these projects.

1. Organizational model/plans for Sustainability Center – Roger and Jennifer. This would not be part of the bond measure. The group discussed whether the center would be conceptual/symbolic or physical (building). Roger mentioned that he had a conversation with Josh Scov (UofO) about the advantages of having a building and what he said was that sustainability activities and programs without a physical location tend to lose momentum. A structure could be a demonstration model of sustainable building. Donations would be a way to raise funds and materials for the building project.

Roger discussed with the committee the plans for the Pizza Hut building to become a demonstration model for existing building retrofit to become a sustainable building. The interior will be rearranged to improve passive solar effectiveness. To have the building meet the LEED standards for existing buildings will need donations.

Existing buildings on campus are not sustainable. The combination of a sustainable building for the Sustainability Center and the existing buildings could become an example of the work and transition of gradual improvements toward sustainability.

2. Complete work on Sustainability Coordinator degree – Roger, Tammie. This project is progressing.
3. Add curriculum approval requirement and/or graduation requirement to college degree programs – Kyle. Through Faculty Council.
4. Work on possible grants with Aaron S.
5. Update the Website pages and include online/distant learning opportunity – Kyle, Larry. Grant opportunity? Coop. ed. Students might be hired to work on Web pages and content could be provided by the group.
6. Provide faculty training for integrating sustainability into their curriculum – Tammie, Susie, Joe, Claudia. AASHE workshop information

7. Process for faculty to have courses meet “sustainability requirement” – tied with #3. Courses with sustainability content could have green seal or green leaf symbol next to them in the course catalog/schedules.
8. Climate change initiative(s) – OSPIRG, Mary Spilde, student involvement. Work with current efforts at U of O as well.
9. Environmental Health Specialist AAS degree – Susie. The group agreed to work on this as a degree program after the Sustainability Coordinator was off the ground.
10. Science Sustainability program AAOT – Claudia to chair Science Sustainability Committee, Joe. The group discussed the possibility of offering a 4 year degree program at Lane in coordination with a University. Ideas included OHSU, PPM or Environmental Studies at UO, PSU Sustainability Program. Susie and Larry talked about having a link to a program in the state that isn’t competing to have the same students would be good, Rodger offered that a strong possibility would be PSU since they have a Sustainability degree program. Joe and Claudia were asked to float the idea back to Science Division.

11. Increase Student Involvement in all of this work we are doing

With Joes initial enthusiasm about student involvement, the group discussed at some length the advantages of student involvement in many of these sustainability projects and additional ones on campus. As Larry stated, “student driven activities get done”. Connecting with students is important. Faculty can provide continuity as students pass through our programs. Students are commonly overlooked as a resource. Mary Brau – student grants sent out information earlier to our group about this, Larry and Susie will follow-up on the student initiatives. Other ideas mentioned included expanding some of the 2 year programs such as energy management with paid internships. This would allow students to work to improve the sustainability of our buildings and other areas on campus. Susie and Larry also mentioned how important student driven projects are and that the co-op part of this could be something that works for all divisions to focus efforts on some aspect of sustainability relevant to their disciplines to make a more integrated fully transdisciplinary approach to sustainability at Lane. Larry offered to connect with the student council on our work as well and start the conversation on initiatives.

All interested faculty were requested to input their schedules into Groupwise so that Susie could do a busy search to find a regular time to meet. Because Claudia and Tammie cannot meet Wed. afternoons this time will be avoided.