

# Sustainability and Learning Committee

Oct. 11, 2007

Present: Susie Cousar, Roger Ebbage, Jennifer Hayward, Will Klausmeier, Shelley Mort, Claudia Owen, Margaret Robertson, Larry Scott, Tammie Stark

Members of the committee had a few minutes at the beginning of the meeting to look through the books we purchased this summer. The collection will be donated to the library.

## Announcements:

Susie distributed 2 handouts:

- Learning Principles for Sustainability by Anthony Cortese
- Printout of a spreadsheet of Sustainability and Learning Committee Goals and corresponding tasks

Committee members recommended the following sources of sustainability and environmental materials:

- MIT Press: search “Environment”
- Island Press
- Chelsea Green Publishing
- Berrett-Koehler Publishers

Susie asked the committee for feedback about the Academe program related to the Precautionary Principle by Carolyn Rafensperger who has presented at the Bioneers conferences on this. After learning more about what the academe addresses (systems thinking and incorporating the precautionary principle into planning at every level) and the group agreed that Susie should find out more and that this could be something that the group could sponsor for the community such as the City of Eugene Sustainability Commission that Kitty Piercy is sponsoring. Since the meeting Mary Spilde also offered that it would be good to find out more and see about sponsoring an academe. Susie will follow-up and let the group know the details at the next meeting.

Tammie announced that the sustainability coordinator AAS degree survey had been conducted. She also shared the task analysis that she had tabulated. The results of the tabulation came from 28 job descriptions for sustainability coordinator job. The top of the list was coordinating/liaison/communication – 98% of the job descriptions included something in this category. Many other tasks were listed. Tammie indicated she would send the file in an e-mail.

Claudia announced that the Science Sustainability Team had met on Monday, Oct. 8. Three members of the team, Joe, Shelley and Claudia, also regularly attend the Sustainability and Learning meetings so there should be good coordination between the 2 groups. The first task of the team was to establish a list of sustainable classes that already exist in science. The funding for this task is for part-time faculty participation and that the funding dictates that the task should be completed by Jan. 1. It would be desirable for these science courses be approved with the “green seal.” Sustainability and Learning Committee members indicated that S&L would not yet have approved the criteria for green seal courses. Claudia suggested that the Science

Sustainability team could plan an initial sustainability track of existing courses that could be updated later with courses officially given the green seal.

Larry suggested that the meetings of the Sustainability and Learning Committee should be announced at Faculty Council meetings and advertised, perhaps in the weekly. Susie volunteered to do this.

The visioning meeting discussed with Kyle at the meeting of the various sustainability groups is still being worked out with Mary and Sonya. The idea of having a facilitator for the meeting is not going forward.

The group briefly discussed whether the S&L committee should put the Sustainability Center idea on the agenda or whether that idea is bigger than our group. It was suggested that we should still discuss and provide our input, because this was an idea that came from this group a few years ago when it was formed. Also noted was that we can work on the idea as a long term goal and as a cross disciplinary collaborative.

The committee as a whole went through the list of tasks that had been discussed at the previous meeting and prioritized the list in terms of tasks that could be completed in 5 months, in 6-12 months, in 1-2 years, in 3-5 years, or are ongoing. Susie e-mailed the spreadsheet with its modifications to members of the committee on Oct 12.

The group decided to separate out AAS and AAOT tasks since they would be completed within different timescales.

A task of organizing Institutes / Academies for community training was added to the list. It was noted that this would be an important way to improve visibility of our sustainability programs and related courses. Once the faculty has been trained, Train the Trainer workshops for the broader community could become part of this.

The committee expressed the hope that we could find a way for the sustainability books being donated to the library to be designated as a collection. Ideas expressed include having the books together in one location, having a key word in the library catalog so all the books would come up in a search, making a poster to be displayed in the library with a list of the books, having the sustainability Web site list the books.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55.

Scribe: Claudia