

Sustainability Committee
Tuesday, April 15 2014, 3:00-4:00, Building 16, Room 119

Notes

1. Welcome and Introductions:

- Darlene Colborn, Facilities Management and Planning
- Susie Cousar, Health, PE, & Athletics
- Jennifer Hayward, Institute for Sustainable Practices
- Gail Hemsoth, Adult Basic Secondary Education
- Patty Hine, High School Connections
- Rachelle Katter, Health, PE, & Athletics
- Brian Kelly, College Services
- Lori Lilliefors, Cooperative Education
- Pamela McGilvray, Disability Resources
- Claudia Owen, Science
- Russ Pierson, Facilities Management and Planning
- Margaret Robertson, Advanced Technology
- Paul Ruscher, Science
- Anna Scott, Institute for Sustainable Practices
- Wendy Simmons, Wellness
- Kathy Thomas, Grants Office
- Clive Wanstall, Conference and Culinary Services
- Zack Wright, Student

2. Updates and Announcements:

- *Global Climate Convergence:* Patty announced that the Global Climate Convergence has put together an Earth Day to May Day 2014 calendar of events. Patty distributed the calendar to the Committee.
- *Faculty Professional Development:* Rachelle updated the committee on her research into setting up a Faculty Interest Group (FIG) for sustainability. A FIG needs to be comprised of 4-10 faculty and they need to meet to research and/or develop solutions around a certain topics at least 4-5 times over the span of a term or a year. Faculty members receive a small stipend for participating in the FIG. LCC employees who are not faculty can participate in the FIG, but they will not receive the stipend. Committee members who are interested in participating in the FIG were invited to stay a few minutes after this meeting to begin organizing.
- *Sustainability Principles and Practices:* Russ announced that he attended an excellent reading of prose and poetry by Margaret and Howard Robertson on April 5 at Tsunami book store.
- *Commuter Survey:* Jennifer reported that Lane will be distributing a survey on commuting habits to employees and students later this term. The Committee reviewed the draft survey and made a few minor comments that Jennifer will incorporate into the final version.
- *Peace Center Event on Ending Gender Violence:* Zach reported that he recently attended a great event by the Peace Center that was about transforming men to reduce violence against women.

3. Sustainable Purchasing Subcommittee

OFFICE MAX: Jennifer and Susie reported that Office Max has a few options for us. For example, Office Max can determine what are the 100 items most purchased by Lane and create a list of “greener options” for all of those 100 items. Then they can put a side-by-side comparison list of the 100 most frequently purchased items together with the greener option on Lane’s Office Max online user interface. This will provide an easy way for office supply purchasers to find and choose the greener option. The Subcommittee is moving forward with implementing this project with Office Max. Additionally, Health, PE, and Athletics Administrative Coordinator, Paula Sena, will be discussing with Peer-to-Peer the

possibility of having “auto-substitutions” of certain products for greener products. In this instance, someone might order one product, but then they would receive an equivalent, but greener option. For example, if they ordered paper with no recycled content, they would receive paper with recycled content and not the exact paper that they ordered.

BOTTLED WATER: Susie recently contacted the owner of the vending machine company that supplies the “healthier” foods and beverages. She asked the owner to stop putting water in disposable bottles in the vending machines. The owner said that she is aware that Lane has this new procedure, but the other vendors are not following it and she is not planning to follow it until the other vendors comply. Susie asked if the vendor would replace water in disposable bottles with reusable bottles in her machine. The owner said that she is willing to consider this idea, but that the reusable bottles have to be ordered in a very large quantity in order to be affordable and she cannot afford to purchase in such a large quantity. Susie reported that the subcommittee is planning to contact Foodservices Manager, Michael O’Neal, to see if he would be willing to partner with the vending machine companies to buy reusable bottles that can be sold in the vending machines and at Foodservices.

FAIR TRADE POLICY: Rachelle reported that the Subcommittee is exploring fair trade policy options. For example, there is a non-profit organization that licenses colleges and universities as “fair trade organizations.”

SWEATSHOP-FREE PURCHASING: Jennifer reported that the Subcommittee has also researched Sweatshop Free purchasing policies. The next step for the Subcommittee is to invite managers of divisions that purchase apparel to attend a meeting to discuss potential barriers and solutions to having such a policy.

Committee members recommended:

- An educational campaign about sweatshop-free purchasing because the issue is not well understood by the general public. For example, sweatshop free purchasing could be the theme of the Committee’s Health Fair Table for 2015.
- Determine all of the departments/divisions that purchase apparel and include them in the discussion. It is not just the Titan Store and Health, PE & Athletics.
- Have the conversation about the benefits of purchasing items made in sweatshops versus boycotting them. Some people postulate that it is good to purchase items made in sweatshops because it at least provides these employees with some income.

4. Spring Conference Workshop Ideas

The Committee brainstormed the following Spring Conference Workshop ideas:

- Scotch broom removal
- Activity in the Learning Garden
- Training on incorporating sustainability into your search committee process.
- Infusing sustainability into curriculum.
- Sweatshop-free purchasing.
- Sustainable purchasing
 - Understanding Lane’s greenpower purchase and how you can purchase greenpower for your home.
- Having a training regarding small changes that individuals can make for a more sustainable planet, i.e., no idling.

Susie, Rachelle, Russ, Pamela, and Claudia volunteered to participate in spring conference workshop development and delivery. Proposals are due Thursday, April 17.

5. Earth Day

Committee checked in about last minute details regarding Earth Day activities. Patty suggested that we encourage people participating in the walk event to carry signs promoting fossil fuel-free transportation.