

**Sustainability Committee**  
**Tuesday, May 20 2014, 3:00-4:00, Building 16, Room 119**

**Notes**

**1. Welcome and Introductions:**

- Darlene Colborn, Facilities Management and Planning
- Jennifer Hayward, Institute for Sustainable Practices
- Lori Lilliefors, Cooperative Education
- Pamela McGilvray, Disability Resources
- Claudia Owen, Science
- Russ Pierson, Facilities Management and Planning
- Anna Scott, Institute for Sustainable Practices
- Mike Sims, Institute for Sustainable Practices
- Wendy Simmons, Wellness
- Kathy Thomas, Grants Office
- Zack Wright, Student

**2. Updates and Announcements:**

- *Sustainability Committee Leadership Survey:* Claudia announced that she and Jennifer are planning on sending the Committee a survey to obtain feedback on the Sustainability Committee operation and to obtain suggestions for improvement.
- *Transportation Survey:* Jennifer reported that it is up on myLane and encouraged Committee members to take the survey and to help spread the word to students and other employees.
- *Sustainable Purchasing Subcommittee Update:* Jennifer reported that Office Max is working on generating a list of the 100 items most purchased by Lane and a list of a greener option for each of those 100 items.
- *Fundraiser for the Rainy Day Food Pantry:* Zack announced that there will be a silent auction fundraiser for the Rainy Day Food Pantry on Thursday, May 22 from 3:00 – 5:00 pm in the longhouse. He encouraged everyone to attend.
- *Same-Sex Marriage Ruling:* Committee celebrated the lifting of Oregon's ban on same-sex marriage. Yay!

**3. Climate Action and Education Forum Debrief**

- Approximately 60 attendees.
- Paul Ruscher presented on debunking climate myths, Russ Pierson presented on environmental justice and social justice issues related to climate change, and local psychologist and author, Don Schneider, presented on communicating across the divides for social and environmental change.
- Videos of each of the presentations and PowerPoint slides are online.

**Debrief:**

- Exceptional, really enjoyed it.
- Don asked the audience to discuss "how does it feel when someone you are close to just doesn't get it?" Interesting to learn that discussing "how it makes you feel" is the first step.
- Learned a lot from presenters.
- Small group discussions could have been better.

**Future:**

- When are we doing this forum again? Fall in-service?

#### **4. Aspiring Leaders Sustainability Training – May 16, 2014**

Jennifer reported that she implemented the Committee suggestion to have Don Schneider do a communicating across the divides for social and environmental change training for the current cohort of Aspiring Leaders. It was a 4 hour workshop that took place on May 16, 2014. Jennifer gave a presentation on leadership for sustainability at Lane for the first hour and Don facilitated the communicating across the divides workshop for the last three hours. The workshop seemed to resonate with about half of the attendees and not with the other half. Four attendees expressed that they were not connecting with Don's approach to communication and that it would not be useful to them in the future.

Jennifer asked the Committee for suggestions on improving Aspiring Leaders sustainability trainings for the future. Committee recommendations included:

- Have interactive activities.
- Make it be a participatory thing.
- Have it be a forum/panel.
- Include an opportunity for the Aspiring Leaders to share with each other.

#### **5. Re-energizing the Green Office Certification**

Committee brainstormed about how to re-energize the Green Office Certification. Committee discussed whether it would be okay to certify subgroups within departments for very large departments like Facilities Management and Planning and Science. Committee agreed that would be okay. A couple of attendees expressed that they have been trying to do the Certification in their departments and that people have been unresponsive. Ideas for motivating unresponsive people in departments and for generally re-energizing the certification included:

- Include more of an element of a competition and/or challenge, similar to the Wellness Challenges (Wendy noted that she would be happy to brainstorm with us later about strategies that she has used with the Wellness challenges).
- Promote the fun and delicious lunch.
- Consider changing name to something other than green "office." The word office might make it seem like it is not applicable to some departments. Other suggestions were Green Workplace, Green Department, and Green Division.
- Have a representative from one of the departments that has gotten certified come and work with you. Maybe s/he could do a presentation for your department and help inspire people.
- Have peer group meetings where sustainability ambassadors can get together, have lunch, and discuss solutions to barriers that they are having.
- Can we use information that Don Schneider has been teaching us about communicating across the divides?
- Rework the point system to be more relevant.
- Transportation point is not inclusive of people who drive climate-friendly vehicles like electric or hybrid.

Jennifer will schedule a Green Office Certification subcommittee meeting to plan for implementing the above suggestions.

#### **6. Next Year**

Claudia asked Committee members to consider whether they would be interested in being the chair for next year.