

Academic Senate Sustainability Committee Fall, 2008 Progress Report

The Committee met every other week. In addition, there were extensive conversations amongst the committee members as well as with other interested people. At the first meeting, Committee members agreed upon and individually assumed responsibility for moving the following agenda items forward for the 2008-2009 academic year. All committee members were actively involved with the committee's activities.

The agenda items were selected to support the five action items identified by the 80 participants of the Sustainability Retreat in February 2008 and are in alignment with the Talloires Declaration Action Items. These five action items are faculty development, sustainability literacy, starting with sustainability (freshmen experience), curriculum enhancement, and a sustainability "hub."

Sustainability Curriculum

The Committee agreed this would be a primary focus this year.

- David Braun and Harvey Greenwald agreed to take the lead on a set of Sustainability Learning Objectives. They took the proposed learning objectives developed last year and with input from other committee members developed a second version. These are in the process of being reviewed and revised to reflect current input from committee members.
- In an effort to encourage a culture of sustainability among faculty, the committee agreed to develop and propose several programs that would support curriculum development and inclusion of sustainability in existing courses.
 1. David Braun, Steven Marx, and Kate Lancaster, met with Walt Bremer who agreed to support an interdisciplinary faculty colloquium The Sustainability Book Club through the CTL. 17 faculty and staff signed up for a year long monthly meeting. The colloquium is intended to generate fresh ideas and possibly a new UNIV course on Current Thinking in Sustainability beginning in Winter 2010, open to students in Sustainability Minors or Concentrations and featuring Book Club participants as guest lecturers. Each participant agreed to lead a discussion on a current book addressing sustainability. The list of selected books and meeting times is included as appendix A. A summary of the book will be posted on Digital Commons.
 2. In the same meeting with Walt Bremer, the Academic Senate Sustainability Committee received approval to lead faculty workshops on incorporating sustainability into existing courses. The first will be held on January 23, 2009 as part of the Winter 2009 Teaching Well Workshops.
 3. If the one day workshop is successful, a quarter-long college-focused mentoring program will be offered in Spring 2009.

Communication and Coordination of Sustainability-Related Activities

The Committee agreed a website was needed to serve as an organizing hub and communicate the many activities across campus that fall under the topic of sustainability. Leanne Hindmarch, Xiaing Rong and Dennis Elliot have been working on developing the website.

Student Focus

The Committee agreed to again support Focus the Nation. Kate Lancaster, Steven Marx, Peter Schwartz, and Tyler Hartrich will serve as committee liaisons.

WOW & first year experience

- Kate Lancaster worked with the Summer Programs Committee, in particular, Andrene Kaiwi-Lenting and Kris McKinlay, Director OCOB Advising Center to make both SOAR and WOW more sustainable and create a culture of sustainability among incoming freshmen. A student team from Kate Lancaster's Sustainable Business Process Class worked with the Week of Welcome 2008 Executive Board (Student Coordinators) and recommended ways to make the event more sustainable. Lindsey Swan, a marketing student, worked with the Summer

Programs Committee to develop informational material for students. Both events increased the use of sustainable promotional material, included sustainability in panel discussions, offered zero-waste lunches, and worked with leaders who were encouraged to reduce the environmental impact of the activities. Promotional material may be viewed at: (http://ola.calpoly.edu/ocob/session5/5_3.html) and <http://studentlife.calpoly.edu/ori/wow/newstudents/sustainability.asp>

- Harvey Greenwald and Peter Schwartz will communicate with the Green Campus Interns and CSDs in student housing who are designated sustainability coordinators. Harvey will also contact the ASI president to identify opportunities.

Earth Day

- Neal MacDougall, Tyler Hartrich, and Margot MacDonald agreed to identify a potential Earth Day speaker and move forward on planning an event.

Visioning

- Committee members are involved in WASC Committee meetings and in the Strategic Planning process to support the inclusion of sustainability and to enhance the culture and promote a community of sustainability on campus. Kate Lancaster presented drafts of the committee's two resolutions (Office of Sustainability and Sustainability as a Fundraising Priority) to the Academic Senate Executive Committee. Their recommendations and suggestions will be incorporated and additional input solicited prior to moving resubmitting either resolution.
- Bob Echols and Kate Lancaster met with Susan Opava to discuss opportunities for grants and research and to brainstorm about ways to coordinate campus activities related to sustainability.

Appendix A

Sustainability Book Club, Meetings are in Library, Room 510, 10am-Noon

Schedule as of December 21 2009

Date	Topic	Reading
January 2 2009	Introduction: Cal Poly Sustainability	"What is Education For?" by David Orr (1991) Sustainability at Cal Poly, 2008 Biannual Progress Report Cal Poly Sustainability documents
February 6 2009	Localism	<i>Deep Economy: the Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future</i> by Bill Mckibben
March 6 2009	Globalism	<i>Hot, Flat and Crowded</i> by Thomas Friedman
April 3 2009	Water	<i>When the Rivers Run Dry</i> by Fred Pearce.
May 1 2009	Engineering	<i>Biomimicry</i> by Janine Benyus
June 5 2009	Food systems	<i>In Defense of Food</i> by Michael Pollan
September 4 2009	Fair Trade	<i>Brewing Justice: Fair Trade Coffee, Sustainability, and Survival</i> by Daniel Jaffee
October 2 2009	Business	TBA
November 6 2009	Environmental Justice	<i>Earth Democracy: Justice, Sustainability, and Peace</i> by Vandana Shiva
December 4 2009	Ethnicity and Environment	<i>African American Environmental Thought</i> by Kimberly K. Smith
January 8 2010	Literature and Criticism	<i>Ecocriticism: The New Critical Idiom</i> , by Greg Garrards
February 5 2010	Psychology	<i>Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder</i> by Richard Louv
March 5 2010	Education	<i>Earth In Mind: On Education, Environment, and the Human Prospect</i> by David W. Orr