

**To: Cal Poly Academic Senate**  
**From: Kate Lancaster**  
**Chair, Sustainability Committee**  
**Re: Winter, 2009 Progress Report**  
**Date: March 20, 2009**

The full Committee met every other week during the Winter quarter. In addition, there were extensive conversations and meetings amongst the committee members as well as with other stakeholders. 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.

This year's 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 sustainability literacy, faculty development, curriculum enhancement, starting with sustainability (first year experience), and a sustainability "hub."

### **Sustainability Literacy**

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

- David Braun and Harvey Greenwald took the lead on developing Sustainability Learning Objectives. Their current version was discussed at the last full committee meeting of Winter quarter. Recommendations will be incorporated early Spring quarter and the committee will then make the decision to send a resolution to the Academic Senate to be agendized for discussion by the full senate.
- The Learning Objectives sub-committee met with Dan Villegas to discuss strategy, development of objectives, and assessment.
- Many members of the Committee supported Focus the Nation (February 3-5, 2009).

### **Faculty Development and Curriculum Enhancement**

- In an effort to encourage a culture of sustainability among faculty, the committee offered two programs to support inclusion of sustainability in existing courses and foster the development of new courses.
  1. The Sustainability Book Club (hosted by CTL and the ASSC) consists of 17 faculty and staff who committed to meeting once a month for a year. 12 of these individuals offered to lead the discussion of a book in their area of expertise. 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. The list of selected books and meeting times is included as appendix A. A wiki has been established to support the discussion: <http://sbccalpoly.pbwiki.com/FrontPage>
  2. A faculty workshop on incorporating sustainability into existing courses was held on January 23, 2009 as part of the Winter 2009 Teaching Well Workshops. 18 faculty attended.

### **Starting with Sustainability (First Year Experience)**

- Several ASSC committee members met a number of times with WOW Stakeholders to gain a better understanding of what is currently being done, assess what is being done at other institutions, and develop recommendations, which are forthcoming.

### **Sustainability “Hub”**

- All committee members and numerous stakeholders are in agreement that Cal Poly needs a way to coordinate and communicate the sustainability initiatives. A survey of other institutions suggests the establishment of “Centers of Sustainability” is on the rise and helps to attract funding and students.
- Based on a meeting with Provost Koob early in the quarter and given the current budget status, the committee is examining other ways to establish a way to coordinate sustainability efforts on campus.
- Leanne Hindmarch, Xiaing Rong and Dennis Elliot presented their website design recommendation to the Committee. All are in agreement that we move forward on the website as a first effort to serve as the sustainability hub. The URL will be [sustainability.calpoly.edu](http://sustainability.calpoly.edu), which currently links to the 2008 UC/CSU/CCC Sustainability Conference.