

Academic Senate Sustainability Committee 2007 – 2008 Progress Report

Committee members: David Conn, Ben Eckold (student, ASI appointee), Dennis Elliot, Harvey Greenwald, Leanne Hindmarch, Tom Jones, Robert Kitamura, Kate Lancaster, Ivan Lee (student, ASI appointee), Neal MacDougall, Steven Marx, Margot McDonald, Lou Rosenberg, Paul Wack

The Committee, with input from Bruno Giberti, identified seven (7) agenda Items for 2007-08, which we unofficially called **The Year of Sustainability at Cal Poly**. Each agenda item was tied to one or more Talloires Declaration (TD) action items.

The Committee met for 1 hour each week throughout the academic year, with a few exceptions. All committee members were actively involved in making Agenda Item #1 the success it was. Committee members took the lead on various agenda items as noted below.

Agenda Item 1. Organize visioning retreat on sustainability at Cal Poly and report in Spring, 2008 (TD Action Items 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 9) – ASSC Lead: Kate with Harvey Greenwald, Margot McDonald, and Neal MacDougall

- The day-long Sustainability by Design Retreat was held February 23, 2008. A professional facilitator, Ruth Rominger¹, facilitated the day long retreat which was hosted by Provost Durgin. Over 80 people representing many of Cal Poly's stakeholders participated: students, faculty, staff, administration, 5 College Deans, as well as external constituents (i.e. employers, local non profit, and local politicians) created a blueprint for sustainability at Cal Poly. The report and recommendations were presented at the Academic Senate meeting on April 22, 2008 and to Provost Durgin on May 14, 2008. The committee will request time with the President's Executive Committee and Dean's Council to present the report and recommendations.
- The day's effort culminated with five action items centered on curriculum, student and faculty engagement, and the need to establish a supporting infrastructure at Cal Poly. Following is a brief summary of the five action items with a **progress report** to date. Please see accompanying report and recommendations for detailed descriptions. The 2008-2009 ASSC agenda will continue to address these action items.
 1. Faculty Development (training, literacy in sustainability, course development)
 - Priority for 2008-09 to develop series of faculty workshops with CTL and members of SuRGE
 - Website to include teaching and research resources (see agenda item #7)
 2. Implementing Sustainability Literacy (strategy, learning outcomes, curriculum development, interdisciplinary perspective, identification and enhancement of existing courses, programs)
 - Involvement in WASC self-study process (see agenda item #4)
 - SusCat.calpoly.edu (Sustainability Catalog) which lists existing courses that include sustainability was rolled out Fall, 2006.
 - ASSC Committee worked on Learning Outcomes for sustainability (May, 2008). Will be submitted to Academic Senate in Fall, 2008)
 3. Starting with Sustainability (Incorporate sustainability theme throughout WOW and First Year Experience)
 - A student team (from BUS 470, Sustainable Business Practices, taught by Kate Lancaster) worked with the WOW Board and presented a list of

¹ Ruth Rominger is the Director of Learning Design at the Monterey Institute for Technology and Education, was Senior Acquisitions Editor and Manager of Editorial Systems at Dryden Press and Vice President and General Manager of Archipelago Productions, an educational multi-media group. Ruth served as Vice President of The Natural Step (2000-2004), a sustainability consulting organization.

- recommendations to model and educate students about sustainability at Cal Poly and beyond
- Kris McKinlay (Director of COB Advising Center, member of Summer Advising Program Committee, and Retreat participant), is working on a number of initiatives to bring the message of sustainability into SOAR.
 - Lindsey Swan (student in BUS 470, Sustainable Business Practices, taught by Kate Lancaster and member of Net Impact), is working with Kris and others who are involved with the Summer Advising Program to develop sustainability messaging and educational experiences for incoming freshmen.
4. Curriculum (integrating sustainability throughout the curriculum, connect with service learning, create minors/certificate program in sustainability, provide additional interdisciplinary experiences)
- Sustainabilitymarketplace.calpoly.edu went live in Fall, 2008. Developed by Linda Vanasupa and other members of SuRGE, it serves as a link for students, staff, faculty and community members who are looking to work together on projects for sustainability.
 - Sema Alptekin (Honors Program Director and Retreat Participant), invited a number of faculty from various disciplines who presented at Focus the Nation to lead a class in the Honors 200 Sustainability Seminar. This model, with appropriate funding could serve as a “first course” for all freshmen to introduce the topic of sustainability.
 - Kate Lancaster and Ken Smokoska (Chair Energy/Climate Change Committee, Sierra Club of California and Retreat Participant) met with Dean Skip Parks to discuss the possibility of a Certificate in Sustainability, May 7, 2008.
 - ASSC Committee identified existing programs and met with EDES 406 and EDES 408 faculty (Jonathan Reich, Adrienne Greve, both Retreat Participants) to discuss what works and how the Sustainable Environments Minor could be better supported and expanded, May 27, 2008.
5. Sustainability “Hub” (see agenda item #2)

Agenda Item 2. Put forth a recommendation for an Office of Sustainability (work with Sandee Ogren on funding) (All TD Action Items, especially 6 and 10) – ASSC Lead: Harvey

- A Proposal and Resolution supporting the establishment of an Office of Sustainability and a Resolution regarding funding for sustainability were submitted to the Academic Senate Executive Committee with a request to include them on the May 6, 2008 meeting. The Committee moved them to Fall quarter to focus on time-sensitive proposals. The Sustainability Advisory Committee was included in writing the proposal and resolution for the Office of Sustainability.
- The ASI Board passed Resolution #08-08: Supporting the Establishment of an Office of Sustainability, April 8, 2008.
- ASSC met with Sandee Ogren to discuss funding opportunities and develop strategic plan, June 2, 2008.

Agenda Item 3. Provide input on sustainability at Cal Poly concerning Access to Excellence (All TD Action Items, especially 1, 6, and 10) – ASSC Lead: Margot

- Committee members have been apprised of progress and provide input when invited.
- Ken Smokoska contributed insight as invited community representative at CSU Access to Excellence Stakeholder meetings. He was invited by President Baker and has communicated with ASSC members.

Agenda Item 4. Provide input on sustainability regarding WASC self study (All TD Action Items, especially 6) – ASSC Lead: None

- Kate Lancaster is serving on the WASC, Polytechnic Identity Committee. Committee met several times during Spring quarter and are identifying examples.

Agenda Item 5. Provide support for and participate in relevant events, such as

Focus the Nation (TD Action Items 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7) – ASSC Lead: Steven and Ben

- Event was a huge success. Over 150 faculty and nearly 5,000 students participated in the full day teach in.

Tony Cortese visit (TD Action Items 1, 6, and 7) – ASSC Lead: Linda

- Successful – spoke to various constituencies. College of Liberal Arts at invitation of Dean (first time CLA has sustainability get together) , Facilities Administration President Baker

UC, CSU, CCC Sustainability Conference (TD Action Items 1, 2, 4, and 7) – ASSC Lead: Margot and Neal

- Committee continues to support Margot. Planning is well underway, currently has over 850 participants registered.

Agenda Item 6. Organize Earth Day events (ongoing) (TD Action Items 1, and 2) – ASSC Lead: None

- Supported student effort (emPower Poly Coalition) to host Robert Swan and plan an Earth Day event.

Agenda Item 7. Develop the Cal Poly Sustainability homepage: sustainability.calpoly.edu, the portal for all things sustainable at Cal Poly (TD Action Items 1, 2, and 10) –

ASSC Lead: Lou and Harvey

- Have developed an outline and determined minimum cost, wrote proposal and requested funding early Winter, 2008. Received approval from Provost Durgin to move forward. Will be working with Dennis Elliot and Leanne Hindmarch to develop content.