

**To: Cal Poly Academic Senate**  
**From: Kate Lancaster**  
**Chair, Sustainability Committee**  
**Re: 2008-09 Annual Report**  
**Date: June 23, 2009**

The ASSC 2008-2009 agenda items were identified by the committee to further the five action items developed by the 80 participants of the Sustainability Retreat in February 2008. The 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 for the year. We devoted significant time to this area.

- During the Fall and Winter quarters, the Committee solicited the advice of various stakeholders and worked through numerous drafts of a Resolution on "Sustainability Learning Objectives". The Committee's goal was to develop a concise set of University-level sustainability learning objectives to serve as an addendum to the University Learning Objectives. The final draft was sent to the Executive Committee, which approved it for consideration by the Academic Senate. The Senate approved the Resolution on June 2, 2009. The approved Resolution for Sustainability Learning Objectives is available at <http://www.calpoly.edu/~acadsen/Resolutions/2008-2009/AS-688-09.pdf>.
- Many members of the Committee spoke at and otherwise supported this year's 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 and supported by Steven Marx) consists of 17 faculty and staff who met once a month beginning January 2009. The club will run for a year. 12 individuals offered to select a book and lead the discussion in their area of expertise. The colloquium is intended to generate fresh ideas and possibly a new UNIV course on Current Thinking in Sustainability. The course will be open to students in Sustainability Minors or Concentrations and feature Book Club participants as guest lecturers. 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. The Committee plans to offer this type of workshop in the coming year.

### **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. The report is attached as Appendix A.

### **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 in Winter quarter and given the current budget status, the committee agreed to table resubmitting a resolution for an Office of Sustainability for the time being and to identify other ways to coordinate sustainability efforts on campus.
- Leanne Hindmarch, Xiaing Rong and Dennis Elliot presented a website design recommendation to the Committee, which was refined by committee. The URL will be sustainability.calpoly.edu. Rough outline available upon request.

## Appendix A.

### Revised Recommendations Regarding FYE and Sustainability

#### Background

The enclosed recommendations are the result of meetings over the last several weeks involving representatives of Student Life and Leadership, Residential Life and Education, ASI, students, and faculty. All of these groups have made substantial commitments to sustainability. Communication among the various groups, especially the faculty, has been lacking at times. The purpose of the meetings was to determine strategies to enable the Sustainability Committee to provide better support for the sustainability activities of the various groups.

#### Recommendations

1. At least once a year, the Sustainability Committee should invite the Assistant Director (or designee) of Residential Life and Education and the Assistant Director (or designee) of Student Life and Leadership to a meeting of the Sustainability Committee. It is most important to open lines of communication with groups that are so actively involved in sustainability. The Sustainability Committee would have an opportunity to provide meaningful support for these efforts.
2. As the Sustainability website is being developed, the site plans should be shared with Student Life and Leadership as well as Residential Life and Education. Both of these areas have existing websites involving sustainability that could be linked to the Sustainability website. In addition, these areas may also have good suggestions regarding the Sustainability website. For example, a website listing of faculty research and ongoing projects in the area of sustainability would be most useful as a resource for sustainability programs developed by the residence halls. This information could be useful for community service projects as well.
3. Industry representatives frequently recruit on campus. It would be useful to have a public listing of visiting recruiters representing green industries. This too would be most useful as a resource for sustainability programs developed by the residence halls. The Sustainability Committee should consider inviting the Director of Career Services to a meeting to discuss how best to transmit the above information to the campus.
4. The Sustainability Committee might consider involvement in the development of a green seminar series.
5. Currently students are introduced to the issue of sustainability at Open House. This is followed by SOAR, WOW, and finally the residence halls' programming. The introduction could actually begin one step further back when prospective students are called. Callers (faculty and students) could inform students of sustainability opportunities at Cal Poly.
6. Departments could be encouraged to include information regarding sustainability in their orientation (101) classes as appropriate.
7. It would be helpful to have a measurement of our carbon footprint. (Green Campus is in the process of obtaining some of this information. There is a website at Berkeley that provides very good information.)
8. WOW provides panels for both students and parents that involve sustainability. Faculty could provide an important resource for these activities. Faculty could also provide support for contests that begin during WOW and continue throughout the year.