

President's Sustainability Leadership Team Meeting
February 16, 2011
1:00 p.m.
Seibert Conference Room

Attendees: Dr. Valerie Thaxton, Dr. Mark Eichenlaub, Kurt Range, Dr. Katherine Witzig, Karen Stallman, Melanie Reinhardt, Susan Pflug, Brad Sparks, Jody Lauf

IGEN Update – Dr. Thaxton

Dr. Thaxton reported that the college is still seeking funding for the IGEN grant. Funding for the spring was received and will be used for outreach and education. Dr. Leith Sharp will be leaving her position in the spring. The vacancy announcement has been posted.

Green Jobs/Green Economy Position Update – Dr. Thaxton

Dr. Thaxton reported that the selection committee recommended a candidate; however, funding is unstable. Therefore, a decision was made to “pull” the recommendation from the board agenda until funding is more secure. In the meantime, outside contractors and/or part-time employees will be utilized to fulfill the job duties.

Sustainability Center Update – Ms. Stallman

Ms. Stallman stated that the “Where Are We?” sustainability update report has been posted to the Sustainability Center’s web site. Items will continue to be added to the report on a regular basis.

The Sustainability Center recently participated in a Green Symposium in St. Louis. Over 400 attendees visited and collected information about various green initiatives.

The college will once again be participating in the Regional Commerce and Growth Association’s Green Challenge 2011. There is a kick-off event scheduled for next week.

Ms. Stallman will be participating in the Women in Green Conference at Lewis & Clark Community College. She will serve on a panel discussion regarding green areas/initiatives.

IGEN will be hosting a retreat during the college’s spring break. Ms. Stallman, Dr. Thaxton, Dr. Witzig, Mr. Nadziejko and Mr. Hilgenbrink will be attending.

A speakers’ series is being held at Chester, Sparta and Coulterville high schools. This series is funded by the Randolph County Housing Authority. Marla Esser is the featured speaker and she discusses topics on how to be more green at home, school and in your community.

A Foundation Enhancement Grant has been awarded to fund an additional speakers’ series in Randolph, St. Clair, Monroe and Madison Counties.

Dr. Witzig is leading the effort of Greening Your Curriculum for faculty to faculty training. It is vital to “get the word out” regarding this program.

The Chester Police Department held a meeting to implement a drug drop-off at their location. The goal is to make this program available within the next month.

Team Minutes on Sustainability Web Site – Dr. Thaxton

Dr. Thaxton requested a motion to approve the December 15th minutes and minutes of prior meetings which were distributed in advance for review. Susan Pflug made a motion to approve; seconded by Kurt Range. Dr. Thaxton stated that the minutes would be posted to the Sustainability Center web site. A standing agenda item will be added to subsequent meeting agendas to approve prior minutes and for submission to the web site.

Earth Day 2011 – Ms. Stallman

Ms. Stallman informed the team of several events/activities taking place during the month of April and around Earth Day. They include:

4/8/11 – Regional Leadership Breakfast (Ms. Stallman and Ms. Lauf to attend) – Congressman Jerry Costello will be speaking on the impact of the Kaskaskia and Mississippi Rivers

4/10/11 – Web Innovations and Technology Services will be hosting electronics recycling at the Belleville Campus

4/16/11 – Green Expo (co-sponsored by the Belleville News-Democrat) will be held in the Varsity Gym at the Belleville Campus from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Green vendors and various activities for families and children will be the focus. “Green” artists must complete an application online and if accepted will be charged a fee of \$35 to participate. Volunteers are needed that day. (Ms. Pflug offered to check with RSVP volunteers as to their availability.)

4/18/11 – Red Bud Campus will be hosting a presentation by the Illinois Department of Employment Security

4/19/11 – Ecology Club will be showing a free environmental video to faculty, staff and students

4/20/11 – Earth Day Celebration at the Belleville Campus from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. An essay competition is once again being held during Earth Week/Earth Day celebration. An Earth Day planning meeting is scheduled for February 17th.

4/28/11 – Green Festivities will be held at Programs and Services for Older Persons

TBD – Green bag lunches are being scheduled for the Red Bud Campus and the East St. Louis Higher Education Center

Earth Month Events at PSOP – Ms. Pflug

Ms. Pflug wanted to inform the team of the aluminum can recycling competition held at PSOP recently. Over 60 pounds of aluminum cans were collected and recycled. Proceeds benefited Sister Leona’s advocacy program.

During Earth month, PSOP will host two days of “green” table games. Prizes will be awarded that are “green” and earth friendly, such as light bulbs and reusable canvas shopping bags.

On April 28th, Marla Esser will be presenting ideas and tips on greening your home.

PSOP is working on partnerships to obtain a grant for a container garden. Ideas for usage of the vegetables from the garden include cooking classes and an Iron Chef-type contest. PSOP would also like to offer energy efficiency renovations for seniors in their homes. It was suggested that possibly this could be a service learning project for students. Dr. Thaxton suggested contacting AmeriCorps to check their availability for such services.

Greening Your Curriculum – Dr. Witzig

Dr. Witzig reported that a meeting was held last week to plan a workshop for the fall semester. A presentation is being developed to be given during faculty development week in hopes to encourage more faculty to become involved in the program.

Dr. Thaxton asked Dr. Witzig to once again draft an email to be distributed to faculty with regard to “green” things that faculty can do in their office areas before leaving for summer break. Dr. Witzig may send the draft email to Ms. Windler for distribution.

Non-Credit Green Curriculum – Ms. Lauf

Ms. Lauf reported that one class is currently in session this semester and there will be others offered later in the semester. Community Education is waiting on Weatherization and Energy Auditing grant. They have also begun collecting craft items for the children’s recycled art project booth at Art on the Square.

Recycling Committee – Ms. Stallman

Ms. Stallman stated that a meeting was scheduled for today and discussions will continue regarding indoor/outdoor recycling bins for each campus location.

Ms. Lauf reported that there are no longer bins located at the East St. Louis Campus. The staff collects recyclables and takes them to their home recycling bins. A large portion of shredded paper is continually used in the container gardens.

Recycling Policy Update – Dr. Thaxton

A draft copy of the policy was given to each team member. Dr. Thaxton reported that the policy will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval at this evening’s meeting.

Grants Update – Dr. Eichenlaub

Dr. Eichenlaub provided a report of grants which have been awarded or are still under consideration. They are as follows:

DCEO Grants:

1. Construction Trades EOGP Grant = \$350,000
2. Urban Weatherization Initiative Energy Auditor Training = \$300,000
This grant will train 108 people to be energy auditors for homes in East St. Louis.
3. Energy Incentive Program (FY10) = \$33,xxx
Funds were used to replace welders, motors and lighting.
4. Energy Incentive Program (FY11) = \$14,xxx
Funding will be used for upgrading lighting and ballasts.

Considerations:

1. Partnership with SIU-E
2. DCEO Recycling Grant – funding for food scraps recycling and incinerator
3. Urban Weatherization Initiative: Weatherization Specialist – this is stage two of the above-listed grant which will train individuals to go into homes and perform the “actual” work as recommended by the energy auditor
4. Department of Labor: TAACCCT – this is a \$2.1M grant disbursed over a three year period – currently looking at partnerships for this grant

Foundation Mini Grants – Ms. Stallman

Ms. Stallman and Mr. Henderson wrote a green mini grant utilizing Foundation Enhancement Grant funds. Departments are allowed to submit proposals to apply for funds which will allow them to purchase one or more sustainable improvements in their individual area. There are four \$200 grants to be awarded. Deadline for proposals is February 21st. Awards will be announced on March 25th. Ms. Stallman, Mr. Henderson and Mr. Nadziejko will review proposals. Awardees will be able to implement their ideas and provide a report in September as to the impact of the changes made in their area.

Other Updates

Dr. Witzig was approached by a fellow staff member as to the possibility of charging a “green fee” to students. Dr. Witzig indicated that other institutions in the state of Illinois and across the country are implementing such a program. Funding received could be used towards purchasing outdoor recycling bins. Bins could be labeled “Paid for by your green fees!” Dr. Witzig agreed to research this topic further to investigate more of what other peer institutions may be doing in this area.

Dr. Witzig also suggested placing signage in classrooms and labs to remind faculty/students to turn off equipment and lights when leaving the room.

Dr. Thaxton thanked Dr. Witzig for the suggestions and reminded the team of the importance to continue bringing such ideas to the table for consideration.

Meeting adjourned – 2:08 p.m.
Notes taken by – Jamie Windler

Next meeting: May 18 at 1:00 p.m., Seibert Conference Room