

President's Sustainability Leadership Team Meeting
February 17, 2010
2:00 p.m. ~ Seibert Conference Room

Attendees: Dr. Georgia Costello, Dr. Valerie Thaxton, Bernie Ysursa, Dr. Mark Eichenlaub, Rob Hilgenbrink, Karen Stallman, Walter Arenstein, Jody Lauf, Dave Buesch, Gary Gruenert, Brad Sparks, Dr. Katherine Witzig, Brad Nadziejko, Bob Weck, Susan Pflug, Jan Zuke

Introductions were made.

Illinois Community College Sustainability Network (ICCSN)

Rob reported that Governor Quinn was at the College last month and announced funding of \$1.7M for ICCSN initiatives. Southwestern Illinois College will be the fiscal agent. Dr. Leith Sharp is now the executive director for the ICCSN and will be responsible for the allocation of the \$1.7M to the 14 schools in the network. Dr. Sharp is from the Harvard Sustainability Center and is well-respected in the field. She will bring great perspective to the ICCSN. The \$1.7M will be funded through August 2010. An investigation into Rate Payer funds to continue sustaining the program is on-going. Dr. Costello anticipates working with legislators to designate a portion of the Rate Payer funds directly to the ICCSN.

Dr. Costello stated that Dr. Sharp will be meeting with legislative aides in Washington, D.C. to request an additional \$2M to be "earmarked" for the ICCSN. Dr. Costello requested input from the team that can be taken to the legislators.

Walter mentioned that he has had conversations with Dr. Sharp regarding the funding and how we should be spending it.

Committee Charge

Dr. Thaxton stated that many committees such as ours have a mission statement or committee charge. Walter has identified several statements and a subcommittee is needed to develop one that meets the objectives of our team. (Dr. Thaxton, Dr. Eichenlaub, Dr. Witzig and Walter will meet to discuss.)

Update on Sustainability Center Activities

Walter stated that he has been involved with numerous projects/departments throughout the College. He mentioned the following initiatives:

- Working with Selsius to develop two courses he will teach.
- Working with Community Education on offering courses and marketing them to students to grow interest and enrollment. Walter would like to develop a brochure which will detail all of the "green" courses that are being offered at the College.
- Working with Marketing to develop a Marketing Plan which is due to the ICCSN in March.
- Attended the Passport to Wellness event at PSOP – provided handouts on houseplants for better air quality and proper disposal of pharmaceutical drugs.

- Working with American Water Company who can provide a secure, metal container to the College for disposal of prescription medications. With the help of Dr. Eichenlaub, he is researching local police stations to house this container.

Currently, there is a nationwide program in place to dispose of prescription drugs to prohibit them from getting into the water supply. Walter would like to expand this program to local communities and then to surrounding counties.

- Significant amount of public outreach has been and continues to be done. He has spoken to over 700 people, attended a Green Conference in Collinsville as well as the Green Expo in Belleville, where he has inquired about free products to display in the Sustainability Center.
- Met with the head of ARAMARK Corporation's Sustainability Department regarding "greening" the cafés. Also, investigating a food waste compost machine.

Dr. Costello asked that we keep students, faculty and staff aware of activities/initiatives on campus. Dr. Witzig stated that students can provide a tremendous amount of input.

Earth Day at SWIC

Dr. Witzig reported that the Green Committee met to discuss activities for Earth Day to be held on April 22. The committee is contacting vendors to set up tables on "The Quad" as well as local car, motorcycle and bicycle companies to display energy-efficient modes of transportation. The committee will work with Marketing to inform the College and general public about the event.

Walter stated that the plan is to hold the event during the lunch hour, 11:00 – 1:00, in hopes to attract a large number of people.

Dr. Eichenlaub suggested asking film students to film the event and interview vendors and guests. This video could then be displayed in the Sustainability Center. Dr. Costello suggested holding some type of contest and also contacting Waste Management to donate 1,000 kites to give away. Dr. Eichenlaub also suggested environmentally friendly Frisbees. Dr. Witzig stated it might be possible to hold an essay contest for students to win a Sustainability Scholarship. Dr. Costello asked that they work with Mike Fleming in the Foundation.

Dr. Witzig expressed hope that the Sam Wolf Granite City Campus would take part in the event and promote the "green" efforts at the campus. Brad Sparks responded that a display table could be set up for the event.

Green Committee Report

Dr. Witzig reported that their concentration is now on Earth Day activities. They are also discussing the initiative of establishing special parking for hybrid vehicles, scooters and more bicycle racks on the campuses. Dr. Costello asked that Rob Hilgenbrink add the issue to the agenda for the next meeting with Ittner Architects.

Dr. Witzig read the Green Committee's mission statement to the team:

The mission of Southwestern Illinois College's Green Committee is to encourage the college's students, faculty and staff to minimize their personal impacts on the environment – including at school, at work and at home.

We are committed to making (and encouraging others to make) informed, responsible choices about the use and protection of natural resources and energy, knowing that taking responsible ecological steps can lead to economic and social benefits – in addition to creating a healthier, more beautiful world.

Student Ecology Club

Walter reported that the club has been inactive for a few years. He attended the Student Club Fair at the Belleville Campus and had 18 students register to join the club. Randi Papke (Biology instructor) is the co-sponsor. The club held their first meeting earlier this month. The next meeting will be February 23 at 3:00 p.m.

Dr. Costello asked that Walter inform Student Trustee David Hobbs about the club.

Walter stated that the students are very interested in addressing café food service sustainability issues. They also want to work on Earth Day activities and discussed working with the Horticulture Club to host a “mini-market” on campus to offer fresh fruits and vegetables.

Dr. Costello stated that Madison County has a recycling program for old computers and we should ask them to be a part of Earth Day. She also suggested having a “drop-off” point on campus where students could work and accept old Christmas trees. We could collaborate with Ameren to offer a chipper and use the mulch at the College or offer to the public.

Brad Nadziejko stated that the City of Columbia, IL has a “clean up and get green” day where the high school parking lot is set up with numerous drop-off points for the community to donate recyclable items.

Dave Buesch expressed concern about the retention pond on campus and how to clean it without the use of chemicals. He asked if possibly the Ecology Club might have some suggestions or even make it a contest for the students.

Dr. Costello suggested having Marketing create a “branding” for the Ecology Club to help promote attention for the club.

Summer Water Workshop

Bob Weck discussed an initiative to target homeowners in rural areas who are dependent on water from wells and who are also in the Sinkhole Plain Karst area. Bob provided a powerpoint presentation to give an overview of the workshop initiatives.

Workshop will be held at the Red Bud Campus in late summer. A partner in the effort is the CliffTop Alliance. A targeted mailing will be done to those in these sensitive areas.

Issues to be addressed include: why care about ground water?, protecting wells, land use practices and septic treatment/maintenance.

Bob asked the team to provide any ideas to him or Walter. One speaker has been confirmed at this time. Dr. Costello asked Bob to contact local farm bureaus to assist. Bob responded that he is working with the Monroe County Conservation office. Brad Nadziejko stated that the Monroe County Fair is very large and we could ask for their assistance, also the Red Bud High School FFA is very active. Brad Sparks suggested contacting the Department of Natural Resources for a speaker. Jody stated that there is an instructor at Red Bud High School who holds a water ecology class in the summer. Karen stated that she has some contacts she could provide through her work with Karst Conferences.

Dr. Costello asked that the workshop be videotaped for reference by faculty, students and the Sustainability Center.

Disposal Policy Discussion

Rob reported there is currently a policy in place for staff to use; however, it does need to be updated to include "how" we dispose of items (furniture, computers, etc.) Also to be added is the responsible disposal of renovation/construction materials. Dr. Witzig asked if we could donate those materials to Habitat for Humanity. Rob responded that we can, but our first priority is to local public schools. Dave Buesch stated that all wood from the Seibert Conference Room renovation was kept and will be used for other projects as needed. Rob asked for any input to assist in updating the policy. Rob and Bernie will address this at the next meeting, April 14.

Grant Reporting

Walter stated that 3rd Quarter Reporting is required and input is needed by February 26th regarding initiatives that have or are taking place at the College. A reminder email will be sent on Friday, February 19.

Dr. Costello asked that we take advantage of the plasma screens to get the message out about initiatives on campus.

Walter reported that he is working with Dr. Eichenlaub, Brad Sparks and Dave Buesch on two grants to acquire new welding machines and light sensors for every room on campus to automatically turn off lights.

Discussion of Other Initiatives

Walter stated that the team needs to bring ideas to President Costello regarding what initiatives we should be doing or policies and procedures that need to be in place.

Brad Nadziejko discussed the possibility of a conference for K-12 teachers in District 522 to work with them on introducing environmental issues into their classrooms. He suggested starting with St. Clair County schools. Dr. Costello suggested he talk to Susan Sarfaty. Walter responded that he and Dr. Thaxton met with Susan and they are looking at doing something with teachers as well as administrators. Dr. Costello suggested being present (booth) at the teacher's institute. Karen also suggested the Monroe/Randolph County teacher's institute.

Walter will be sending an email to high school science teachers. Dr. Costello suggested asking for an assembly to be held to address many at one time.

Walter asked if the College could create a President's Sustainability Team blog/listserv to connect and share ideas and initiatives with one another, rather than waiting for next team meeting. Dr. Costello said to contact Chris Leja.

Jody shared with the team the following Community Education Department initiatives:

- Community garden was installed at the ESLCCC. Assistance is needed to continue growing the garden and making it larger.
- A summer class will be held at the Schmidt Art Center with the assistance of the Americorps program to learn about and make recycled art.
- An activity for kids at Art on the Square will focus on making art from recycled materials. A collection needs to be held to gather art supplies for the kids, possibly this could be done in conjunction with Earth Day. Dr. Witzig stated that a table could be set to collect items.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Notes taken by: Jamie Windler

Next meeting is scheduled for April 14th at 2:00 p.m. in the Seibert Conference Room.

Follow-up Summary

- Dr. Thaxton, Dr. Witzig, Dr. Eichenlaub, and Walter Arenstein to present proposed mission statement at next meeting.
- Rob Hilgenbrink and Bernie Ysursa to present "green" disposal policy at next meeting.
- Rob Hilgenbrink to contact Ittner concerning special parking for "green" transportation.
- Walter Arenstein to contact Student Trustee David Hobbs, Waste Management, arrange for videoing Summer Water Workshop, and Chris Leja for blog/listserv.
- Dr. Thaxton and Walter Arenstein to review plans with Marketing representatives.