

President's Sustainability Leadership Team Meeting
April 14, 2010
2:00 p.m. ~ Seibert Conference Room

Attendees: Dr. Valerie Thaxton, Dr. Mark Eichenlaub, Karen Stallman, Walter Arenstein, Jody Lauf, Gary Gruenert, Brad Sparks, Dr. Katherine Witzig, Brad Nadziejko, Kurt Range, Bob Weck, Susan Pflug, Jan Zuke, Melanie Reinhardt

Introductions were made.

Earth Week Update

Walter discussed Earth Day/Week events scheduled. There are approximately 30 vendors participating, including some groups from the college. He expressed thanks to the Green Committee, Marketing and Jamie Windler for their work on the event. He asked the team to encourage staff and students to attend. Karen Stallman responded that the flyers are posted at the Red Bud Campus and there has been a good response for the lunch presentation scheduled where Walter will speak.

Earth Day Essay Competition

Dr. Thaxton reported there was a good response by the faculty with regard to the essay competition. The submission deadline has passed and judges are now evaluating each essay. Dr. Thaxton thanked this year's judges: Brad Nadziejko, Randi Papke, Karen Stallman, and Jan Zuke. The three essays receiving the highest points will receive Barnes & Noble gift cards in the amount of \$100, \$75 or \$50, respectively.

The Green Challenge

Walter discussed a "friendly" competition being hosted by the Regional Commerce and Growth Association to entice companies to "green up" over the next six months. Walter shared with the team the scorecard which details the areas where points can be earned. A total of 150 points is possible. The numbers will not be released to the public. Walter would like a subcommittee to volunteer to work together to determine what areas SWIC could improve or implement within the six month timeframe. Jody Lauf stated that Carlton Petty from the ESLCCC would volunteer to serve. Melanie Reinhardt and Brad Nadziejko also volunteered.

Mission Statement

Walter reported that a subcommittee met and developed a draft mission statement for the leadership team. (A copy was emailed to the team prior to the meeting.) Dr. Thaxton stated that it is a draft and open for discussion/suggestions. Dr. Witzig expressed the importance of sustainability being included in curriculum. Walter responded that the American Association of Sustainability in Higher Education website has many syllabi and other resources regarding campus sustainability. However, there is a fee to become a member. There are free webinars for non-members available.

Dr. Witzig would like to see SWIC on the “cutting edge” in offering associate degrees in sustainability, like that of other community colleges. Brad Sparks responded that there is currently an associate degree offered in Construction Management. A handout was provided to the team which lists the credit and non-credit courses available for summer and fall 2010. Brad also stated that it is being investigated whether the electrical program could offer “stand alone” courses as well. Kurt Range reported that there is also an associate degree offered in Horticulture.

Jody Lauf suggested offering smaller CSA classes that might encourage interest into taking other sustainability courses. Dr. Eichenlaub suggested looking at other community college websites and garnering ideas on degree programs being offered. Melanie Reinhardt stated that more could be done with the swic.edu/gogreen website by adding information on courses, etc.

Brad Sparks felt that the mission statement as drafted aligns well with the strategic objective of the leadership team. There was a general consensus to move forward with the mission statement as drafted.

Green Committee

Dr. Witzig reported that the committee has been working on the Earth Day event here at the Belleville campus as well as activities at the other campuses. They are also addressing end-of-the-year projects one of which is a memo to faculty/staff who will be leaving for the summer asking them to clean-up/recycle in their work areas as well as shut down computers. Dr. Witzig stated that Chris Leja had approved having computer equipment unplugged; however, the Help Desk would need to be notified.

The second project the committee is addressing is working with ARAMARK to offer the sustainability mugs year-round and not just during Earth Week.

The college can avoid much waste at the end of the semester if there is focus on recycling and clean-up prior to leaving for the summer. Brad Nadziejko discussed “communal” receptacles for groups of people rather than individual desk trash cans. Brad also reported that the committee is inquiring with the Athletic Department regarding the possibility of donating used equipment to area schools. Dr. Thaxton responded that Rob Hilgenbrink is working on the policy for Disposal of Surplus materials. Gary Gruenert stated that there are restrictions on disposal of some items due to grant stipulations. Brad Sparks stated that Technical Education currently donates old equipment to local high schools and recycles all other equipment.

Jody Lauf suggested having one container for perishables in each office area. Brad Nadziejko stated that the accessibility of recycling containers is not convenient. More containers are needed in the office areas. Gary Gruenert stated that we need to “market” the recycling containers better and have more containers available that will fit everything into them. Physical Plant’s goal is to have some type of recycling container at each desk. Jan Zuke agreed that communication needs to be better to students and staff on usage of the containers. Dr. Witzig felt that the containers needed to be better strategically placed. Brad Sparks inquired about Styrofoam recycling. Gary Gruenert responded that it is not available at this time.

Dr. Thaxton asked Walter Arenstein, Melanie Reinhardt, Gary Gruenert, Jan Zuke, Karen Stallman, Jamie Windler, Rick Gregory and Susan Pflug to work together to develop ways to encourage use and educate students and staff as to “how” to use the recycling containers. Walter responded that we need universal container signage that is consistent at each campus/location for easier use. He

stated that some student clubs have inquired about outdoor bins that they could buy and sponsor. The bins would have the club name on it. Walter is currently working with some companies regarding bins. Gary Gruenert inquired about sustainability or grant dollars to buy containers. Walter responded that there are resources available.

Jody Lauf stated that we need to educate students/staff about what items can be recycled other than plastic bottles. Brad Nadziejko suggested adding a standard list of information for new student packets in the fall. Dr. Eichenlaub suggested adding a link on the website for students to sign-up to commit to the green effort. Students could receive emails on what they can do to help in the effort. He also suggested signage on walls over the containers with a list of recyclable items that would be more visible. Brad Sparks suggested the need for lids on the containers for aesthetic purposes. Walter Arenstein offered for any team member to view the sample Rubbermaid recycling container located in the Sustainability Center. Walter also suggested advertising through basic signage, in classrooms, Insider Chat, etc. to encourage recycling.

ICCSN Update

Dr. Thaxton reported that we are waiting on funding from the second grant. We have a commitment, but the funds have not been released. Dr. Eichenlaub stated that the funding will be through the DCEO. He also expressed appreciation to Brad Sparks for his work on grant funding to support new welders for the Technical Education Department.

Other Updates

Dr. Thaxton asked the team to review the SWIC green class handout and to contact Jamie Windler if more copies are needed or for an email version. She expressed appreciation to Melanie Reinhardt and Jamie Windler for the quick turnaround on the green flyers. She also thanked Dr. Eichenlaub for his assistance on the grants.

Dr. Thaxton asked the team if there are any items that need to be added to the regular agenda for each team meeting. Brad Sparks suggested including a listing of all green courses being offered at that time similar to an academic update. Gary Gruenert suggested re-establishing a recycling committee to work together with the leadership team to focus on recycling. He suggested having a representative from various offices/divisions to voice needs and concerns in their respective areas. He stated that Physical Plant provides a report to the state every five years on current sustainability efforts. The next report will be due in 2015.

Dr. Thaxton asked the previously mentioned subcommittee for recycling awareness to work on redeveloping the recycling committee. Dr. Thaxton will ask for representatives from different departments/divisions through the President's Staff.

Dr. Witzig would like to see some data regarding how much money is generated by our recycling efforts and how much can we save by implementing various methods of recycling. She would like to compare semesters to show progress. She felt that data helps to motivate people if they can visually see progress. Gary Gruenert responded that we have some data. Walter Arenstein suggested including that information in the Insider Chat. Dr. Thaxton suggested making it a part of Walter's column in the Insider Chat.

Brad Sparks inquired about the Earth Day electronics recycling and whether the college is paying for that service. Walter responded that the college is paying a small fee so that it will be free to the public.

Dr. Thaxton asked Jamie Windler to develop a standard agenda items list to share with the team. She would like the team to meet again in June and asked the faculty team members to forward their schedules to Jamie so that a date could be set. Dr. Thaxton asked the team if meeting two times per semester was sufficient. The team consensus was "yes."

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Minutes taken by: Jamie Windler