

PRESIDENT'S SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP TEAM

June 16, 2010

1:30 p.m. Seibert Conference Room

PRESENT: Brad Nadziejko, Karen Stallman, Ron Henderson, Walter Arenstein, Brad Sparks, Melanie Reinhardt, Kurt Range, Bob Weck, Rob Hilgenbrink, Gary Gruenert, Dr. Jan Zuke, Dr. Katherine Witzig, Jody Lauf, Susan Pflug, Dr. Valerie Thaxton

Dr. Thaxton introduced Ron Henderson, Director of the Physical Plant, and Ron offered some background information on himself.

- 1) **ICCSN Update** - Dr. Thaxton indicated that the acronym ICCSN will no longer be used...IGEN is the new name – Illinois Green Economy Network. This name better reflects the scope of this program which will retain the same goals and objectives. Some committee members felt the name change was not a step in the right direction. The IGEN staff will hold a contest for students to design the IGEN logo; Dave Paeth will post notices around each campus.

Karen Stallman is now SWIC's Director of the Green Jobs/Green Economy Initiative. She will remain located at the Red Bud Campus but will have district-wide responsibilities.

Rob Hilgenbrink will join IGEN network staff as Treasurer/Financial Advisor effective July 1, 2010.

- 2) **Earth Week Summary** – Mr. Arenstein reported that over 500 people were on the Belleville Campus for Earth Day with 30 exhibitors. A survey indicated that all the exhibitors were very satisfied and would come again if invited. Four 40-gallon bags of prescription drugs were given to the Sheriff's department. Fifteen tons of electronic equipment were collected in a four hour period and scheduled to be recycled per EPA guidelines. Volunteers (students and staff) are needed now to be on the Earth Week Committee for next year's event. It was reported that East St. Louis did plantings on their campus and PSOP, Red Bud and Sam Wolf Granite City campuses also had events during Earth Week.
- 3) **Green Jobs Report** – Ms. Stallman indicated that she is working on several projects identified by IGEN which include identifying best sustainability practices at colleges within the network, identifying pilot projects which can be duplicated at other community colleges, identifying possible corporate partners, and in July IGEN will have training on *Greening Your Curriculum*. SWIC will be represented.
- 4) **Ground Water Workshop** – Mr. Weck reported that there will be a homeowner outreach session on August 24 from 7-9 p.m. at the Red Bud Campus. He has invited a geologist, a fisheries biologist, and an administrator from Monroe County wastewater

treatment as speakers. He is finalizing the invitation list and will contact Dennis McKay to have the session taped.

- 5) **Mission Statement** – Dr. Thaxton addressed the proposed mission statement and indicated that the title of the organization will be changed to reflect IGEN; a revised copy will be sent to committee members. In addition, the second reference to “Through its mission...” will be taken out.
- 6) **Green Committee Update** – Dr. Witzig announced that she and Mr. Nadziejko are co-chairs of the Green Committee and Traci Sachteleben is the secretary. Dr. Witzig indicated that the Green Committee would be sending an email before Fall semester to remind everyone about sustainability efforts such as recycling, shutting down computers/printers, turning off lights, etc.
- 7) **Recycling Committee Goals** – Dr. Zuke reported on discussions of goals from their meeting last week. Some include: standardize recycle bins; obtain outdoor bins; single source recycling at the Belleville Campus; college-wide contract for total recycling; disposal of fluorescent bulbs and batteries; initiating new contracts with vendors of batteries and fluorescent bulbs to include the stipulation that they must take back used items and recycle them; extend the disposal policies to items costing less than \$5K; perform a walk-through audit to determine how many bins each campus has, where they are located and what kind they are; and to educate everyone about how to recycle and how not to recycle. It was suggested that an intern from SIUE’s environmental studies program could help implement projects. The question was asked about the disposal of the old phone devices when the new system is completed; the old phones will be reused by an outside source.

Mr. Arenstein noted that we should keep track of the recyclables that we keep out of landfills. Mr. Henderson said that stronger language regarding recycling should be added to future construction contracts.

- 8) **Data Reports on College Recycling Efforts** – Mr. Gruenert reported that every five years we issue a report on current programs and projects on recycling. In 1987 with a headcount of 10,050 students, we had 50.62 tons of waste; in 2009 with a headcount of 16,420 students, we had 82 tons of waste. Of this, 33 tons (or 40%) of the waste was recycled. Waste paper accounted for 49% of the waste; 11% was food and 9% was metal. Suggested improvements included procuring a container for food waste, focusing on educating staff, and procuring appropriate containers.

Mr. Gruenert was asked what types of plastic can be recycled here. He said all types are being recycled at SWGCC and indicated that more sorting needs to take place. Mr. Sparks indicated that he could provide a summary of ITC recycling to Mr. Gruenert.

For opening week Faculty Development workshops, it was suggested that a presentation could be made or handouts available to show what the Physical Plant recycling procedures are. Elementary discussions can be held on what really can be recycled by providing leadership in getting the word out on procedures. Dr. Witzig will work to get the Physical Plant on the agenda during orientation week.

Mr. Arenstein indicated that he could provide green event guides which address recycling issues when holding conferences and events. Similar language might be incorporated into Board policy.

- 9) **Green Curriculum** – Mr. Sparks indicated that four credit courses will be offered this Fall in Construction Management to include residential energy audit and solar and wind. Mr. Range noted that a sustainable horticulture class is included in the special topics section of the Fall schedule.

Ms. Lauf reported that seven non-credit classes will be offered this Fall along with one three-part workshop. She indicated that both credit and non-credit classes need to be promoted.

- 10) **Web Site Update** – Ms. Reinhardt welcomes suggestions for the www.swic.edu/gogreen web site that currently includes sections on events, green tips, classes, photos, and environmental news. It was suggested that we use a flashing banner on the site (including iSTORM) or some connection through a search engine to promote class offerings. A list of green job openings would be very helpful; Ms. Stallman is working to get a list of openings from the Department of Employment Security. There should be a link between each college green site to IGEN.

- 11) **College Policy Update** – Mr. Arenstein is working with Mr. Thomas in Purchasing on a procurement policy. For disposal, IT is recycling computers. He would like to have an overall policy for all disposables and have an overall college-wide sustainability policy to present to the Board.

- 12) **Metro Pass Program** – Mr. Hilgenbrink gave an overview of the history of the Metro pass program. Ten years ago the cost to the college was \$125,000; this past year the cost was \$550,000. A one-day survey indicated 800,000 boardings. Negotiations will continue into the fall for continuation of some form of pass program. Mr. Hilgenbrink indicated he would consider presenting to the Board a proposal for partial subsidizing.

- 13) **Other Updates** – Mr. Arenstein was offered the opportunity from a former student to purchase a 10K wind generator for \$29,500.

Free registration is available for a “green university” on August 27 at the University of Illinois, www.green.illinois.gov.

Mr. Hilgenbrink and Mr. Arenstein are working on the application to join AASHE – American Association for Sustainability and Higher Education.

Ms. Lauf moved, seconded by Mr. Arenstein for Mr. Henderson and Dr. Witzig to go directly to the faculty to present green initiatives during opening week. Motion carried.

Two more meetings will be scheduled for the Fall Semester once faculty schedules are confirmed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Notes taken by:
Lynn Blomberg