

Sustainability Steering Committee

September 17, 2008

10:00 a.m.

UPC University Club Pub Room

Meeting Facilitator:	Charlie Lane	Type of meeting:	Sustainability Steering Committee
Note taker:	Robb Myrtle	Attendees:	Charlie Lane, Ed Becker, James Grant, Jefferey Sellers, Jennifer Wolch, Jens Midthun, John Welsh, Jon Soffa, Juliana Huehn-Johnson, Mark Ewalt, Mathias Knape, Najemedin Meshkati, Owen Caine, Robb Myrtle, Ruth Wernig

Minutes

- Agenda items:**
- Review of minutes from July 8, 2008 meeting
 - Announce Manager of Sustainability job posting
 - Discussion of meeting with Caltech
 - Introductions & new members
 - Presentation by Professor Sellers outlining his course in sustainability, Local Challenge assignment, and student opportunities
 - Presentation by featured speaker Owen Caine of his findings regarding student interest in USC's sustainable practices
 - Presentation by Mathias Knape, President of GPSS
 - Next steps
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Agenda item: Review of minutes from July 8, 2008 meeting

Agenda item: Announce Manager of Sustainability job posting

- Discussion:**
- Committee reviewed the job posting details
 - Employee Recruitment is currently collecting resumes
 - Resumes are being received from applicants representing a wide range of industries
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Agenda item: Discussion of meeting with Caltech

- Discussion:**
- Charlie Lane recently met with Caltech's Manager of Sustainability
 - There may be similarities between the approaches taken by both institutions
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Agenda item: Presentation by Professor Sellers outlining his course in sustainability, Local Challenge assignment, and student opportunities

- Discussion:**
- Class meets Mondays & Tuesdays from 2:00 p.m. to 3:20 p.m.
 - Class focus includes students completing four (4) challenge assignments (personal, local, political, and international)
 - The last class meeting will feature a competition between the top two (2) groups, who will be presenting their findings to the rest of the class

Agenda item: Presentation by featured speaker Owen Caine of his findings regarding student interest in USC's sustainable practices

- Discussion:**
- Rising student interest in sustainability with some examples being Greeks Go Green, Marshall Net Impact, Environment First, and CAPIRG
 - Students are beginning to recognize the advancement and efforts of USC in regards to sustainability (Auxiliary Services, FMS, Waste Management, Sustainable Cities, etc.)
 - Recycling and having a sufficient number of available receptacles remains a large concern and students would like to take responsibility for recycling efforts once given the resources
 - Students would like to get more metrics or possibly a baseline of their own energy usage in the USC owned buildings
 - Interest was expressed in including sustainability topics in the move-in literature and/or orientation materials
 - Students would like to see more 2-unit course offerings in sustainability
 - Owen stated that he would like to see USC take the best parts of LEED, Green Globe, and Sustainable Endowments Institute criteria and strive towards meeting those goals
 - John Welsh stated that FMS is currently working on a website that would provide information on specific buildings on campus

Agenda item: Presentation by Mathias Knape, President of GPSS

- Discussion:**
- Mathias explained the graduate student perspective regarding sustainability at USC
 - Some thoughtful recommendations regarding sustainable practices were provided to the administration

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- Other items:** Professor Najmedin Meshkati's Freshman Seminar Course in Sustainability
- Course is titled Technology and the Environment and meets Mondays from 2:00 pm. to 3:50 p.m.
 - Professor Meshkati commented that he has noticed a strong student interest in USC's Carbon Footprint
 - Invited the committee members to attend a class and possibly be a speaker

Next Steps / Meeting: The Committee's next meeting will take place in November and will include a discussion regarding the possibility of calculating USC's Carbon Footprint.