

# Sustainability Steering Committee

July 8, 2008

2:00 p.m.

UPC University Club Meeting Room

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<b>Meeting Facilitator:</b>	Charlie Lane	<b>Type of meeting:</b>	Sustainability Steering Committee
<b>Note taker:</b>	Ed Becker	<b>Attendees:</b>	Charlie Lane, John Welsh, Dan Stimmler, Ruth Wernig, Ken Taylor, James Grant, Jon Soffa, Ed Becker, Mathias Knape, Sue Lewis, Chuck O'Regan, Jennifer Wolch

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## Minutes

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- Agenda items:**
- Introductions & new student members
  - Review of minutes from February 21 Meeting & April 24 lecture attended by the committee
  - Overview of Sustainability Baseline report for new members (<http://capsnet.usc.edu/EHS/CampusSustainability.cfm>)
  - Review of recent NBC media coverage of sustainability in higher education and Arizona State.
  - Review of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher education (AASHE) rating criteria under development (focus on academic initiatives and energy/power initiatives)
  - Next steps

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**Agenda item:** Review of minutes from February 21 Meeting & the April 24 lecture attended by the committee

- Discussion:**
- Discussion involved a review of the April 24<sup>th</sup> presentation by Jean-Lou Chameau, president of the California Institute of Technology. Dr. Chameau weighed in on what universities can do to promote green initiatives and education for sustainability. The event was part of the inaugural address of a new Viterbi School lecture series named in honor of civil engineer and USC alumnus Albert Dorman. *Committee members attended the lecture series.*

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**Agenda item:** Overview of "Sustainability Baseline Report" for new members

- Discussion:**
- New committee members were provided a copy of the "Sustainability Baseline Report" as part of an overview of progress made to date by the sustainability teams.

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**Agenda item:** Review of recent NBC media coverage of sustainability in higher education and Arizona State.

- Discussion:**
- NBC visited Arizona State University in February 2008 to explore in depth the nation's first School of Sustainability. Their report aired nationally March 24, 2008, on *NBC Nightly News*. Interviews with students, professors, and administrators shed light on challenges facing this generation of students, opportunities that await graduates.
  - In addition, the committee viewed short news clips prepared by USC students discussing sustainability. Such efforts help give perspective on the range of student interests in sustainability.

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**Agenda item:** Review of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) rating criteria under development (focus on academic initiatives and energy/power initiatives)

- Discussion:**
- AASHE has been working on a voluntary, self-reporting framework for gauging relative progress toward sustainability for colleges and universities. Reviewing the "STARS" criteria to date was helpful in gaining perspective on existing efforts within higher education, and helped guide discussions of USC specific approaches already in place and planned.
  - The Committee revisited the idea of creating a staff position dedicated to sustainability at USC. A draft job description / posting was reviewed and edited by those in attendance.

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**Next Steps / Meeting:** The Committee's next meeting to be scheduled for late September will focus on student interests in the subject area. Task members were asked to begin assembling thoughts about actionable items that could be presented as recommendations for USC.