

President's Climate Commitment Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

E175

2:30 – 3:30

Minutes

Present:

- President Mary Fifield
- Co-chair Jeff Ginsberg (Fiscal Affairs and Central Services), Co-chair Joseph Steffano (Facilities Management)
- Members: John Chirichiello (Facilities – Chelsea Campus), Paul Righi (Buildings & Grounds), Yasdan Shaghghi (BHCC Online Office), Subrina Smith Taylor (Student Services & Enrollment Management), Jesse Thompson (Executive VP and CFO), Christopher Wilkins (Power Plant Engineer), Dawn Zapata (Professional Studies)

Acceptance of minutes of last meeting

The committee was first tasked with accepting the notes of the last meeting and they were accepted.

Acceptance of the three policies reviewed at last meeting

The committee then focused on a second and final review of the policy statements written by the three sub-committees (Energy Star, Waste Minimization and Green Building Policy) formed at the meeting on November 13th. These policies were accepted with one change to the Waste Minimization Policy. The sentence read:

“Bunker Hill Community College will expand its waste management program to include purchasing, minimization, and recycling. “

The President commented that this sentence was unclear and that the word “purchasing” did not follow well behind “waste minimization” without further explanation.

Jesse Thompson suggested that the last part of the sentence “to include purchasing, minimization, and recycling.” be removed and replaced with “beyond recycling.”

This change was accepted as final as noted.

Review and discussion of the policy on temperature variances

Joe Steffano presented a detailed description of the policy for temperature variances for the school. He explained that this policy would enable him to set a standard temperature for the entire school in order

to reduce carbon emissions. This policy would also enable him to effectively deal with questions and concerns about the temperature variances at different areas throughout the school.

The President commented that, while she saw the importance of this policy, it may not be the best policy to implement as a first effort of the committee. Her concern was that this policy affected everyone and may trigger further complaints about the comfort of the temperature at the school. In turn, the President feared that this may cause a culture of dismay and that the BHCC community might not then unite behind the Climate Commitment.

The group decided that the best action to take was to inform the BHCC community of the committee's work and then to survey them on temperature points. Jeff offered to connect with Ian to see if this was something that could easily be done on the newly created website. All also agreed that while this was an important initiative, that it should be revisited at another time when the Climate Commitment was effectively advocated to the BHCC community and their favor behind the initiative overall was received.

Joe also noted that he had met with Scott Benjamin about the energy inventory required by the Climate Commitment. He explained that because of a limitation in historical data, BHCC would only be able to inventory the last 7 years of its energy use, instead of the 10 suggested by the Climate Commitment. He also noted that the inventory would include water, oil, gas, and electric usage. Members of the committee suggested that this inventory be done before any other committee initiative in order to show the most growth in terms of emissions reduction. Joe agreed and will report back on his progress with Scott.

Discussion creation of a website for the committee documents

Jeff explained that he had been working with Ian to create a website for the committee's use. In sideline conversations, Dawn Zapata had agreed to work on marketing and communication efforts for the committee. Jeff then asked Dawn to head a subcommittee for this initiative. She agreed and then explained that this would be a perfect initiative for those who had expressed interest in helping with the issues of the committee, but couldn't dedicate their time to being on the committee. She will connect with those who have offered their help and report back to the committee on thoughts about a marketing campaign.

Create a list of features for the "Green Corner"

Jeff and Dawn also thought that this might be an effort for the subcommittee on marketing to undertake. Jeff also asked that the committee begin to think about some of the items to be included in this new section of the newsletter.

More details about college community engagement

The President asked where the committee stood in terms of its progress with climate-related curriculum changes in the classrooms. Jeff and Joe explained that the committee had appointed a subcommittee to work on such issues, but that due to the first day of classes, none of the subcommittee members were present to speak about their progress.

It was decided that because of this, the next meeting will be announced after all of the faculty on the committee have submitted their teaching schedules to Jeff or Joe.

The date of the next meeting will be scheduled after the new teaching schedules of the faculty members on the committee are known.