

# President's Climate Commitment Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

E175

2:30 – 3:30

Present:

- President Mary Fifield
- Co-chair Jeff Ginsberg (Fiscal Affairs and Central Services), Co-chair Joseph Steffano (Facilities Management)
- Members: Charles Abasa-Nyarko (Academic Affairs), Debra Boyer (Registrar's Office), John Chirichiello (Facilities – Chelsea Campus), Michael Jacoby (SGA President), JoDe Lavine (Science), Mike McSweeney (History and Government), Mark Norton (Network Services), Y, Venkat Row (Mathematics), Yasdan Shaghghi (BHCC Online Office), Weusi Tafawa (Business Office), Jesse M. Thompson (Administration), Chris Wilkins (Boiler Room), Dawn Zapata (Professional Studies)

BHCC President Mary Fifield opened the first meeting of the BHCC Climate Committee by stating that she signed the “American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment” on behalf of everyone at BHCC. She decided, with a group of other Massachusetts college presidents, to sign the commitment after having attended a Massachusetts presidents meeting during which President Kathleen Schatzberg of Cape Cod Community College spoke about climate change. BHCC is now considered a charter member of the commitment, which means the school's membership began on September 15, 2007.

The first required task under the agreement is to form an institutional structure to carry out the mandate of the commitment. As a part of this first task, the institutional structure must decide on at least two steps that it can take immediately towards climate neutrality. The president installed the committee in order to meet this first task. From a list of five steps, the committee chose to take on three: a green building policy, an Energy Star procurement policy, and a waste minimization initiative.

With the construction of the new building, Joe Steffano of Facilities Management, explained that the building will include recycled building materials, green areas that collect water in order to defray sprinkling system use, new computers and appliances that are certified Energy Star products, double paned windows that allow for heat savings, and an energy efficient design which will increase the use of natural light in the building. The question arose about whether or not solar panels would be used in the new building and Mr. Steffano noted that the building was still in design development stage and may undergo several changes until a final design is reached. He also stated that all new construction taking place in Massachusetts must undergo an environmental friendly feasibility study and that the decisions about whether or not to use solar

panels would be made after that study was complete. Construction is slated for April of 2008 with an opening date of October 2009.

The committee also asked Mr. Steffano to speak about BHCC's current methods of heating and cooling the facilities. Mr. Steffano explained that the current air conditioning needs of the school were met with a "chiller" system – steam processed through a chemical solution which yields cold air. Heat, he noted, is provided by a "double boiler system". Mr. Steffano also stated that the "chiller" system used gas and was thus energy efficient. He explained that the double boiler system was beneficial in that he could make the choice on whether to burn gas or oil. He further explained that he makes the purchase of each commodity when the prices are low in order to save money. His colleague, Chris Wilkins, noted that the system was old and should be replaced if possible.

President Fifield then asked if sub-committees could be formed around the three steps that the committee had committed to. The following sub-committees were formed:

Waste Minimization Sub-Committee: Mike McSweeney, Joe Steffano, Debra Boyer. Mike McSweeney will be charged with writing BHCC's Waste Minimization Policy.

Energy Star Procurement Sub-Committee: Jeff Ginsberg, Joe Steffano, Weusi Tafawa, John Chirichiello. Jeff Ginsberg will be charged with writing BHCC's Energy Star Procurement Policy

Green Building Sub-Committee: Joe Steffano, Jeff Ginsberg, Chris Wilkins. Joe Steffano will be charged with writing BHCC's Green Building Policy.

The President called the sub-committees to present an inventory for procurement of Energy Star goods and a waste minimization plan outline in one month's time. She then noted that the following actions of the committee will be to address the second and third tasks of the commitment – respectively, to create a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions report and to create a climate action plan.

The next meeting of the committee will be on Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> in E175 from 2:30 – 3:30.