

Presidents Climate Commitment and Sustainability Committee

Meeting Notes: 12-6-11

In attendance: Jeff Ginsberg, Paul Righi, Les Warren, Mike D'Etremont, Alex Zidel, Indira Rakhimzynova JoDe Lavine; Ken Nies; Stephenson Amon, Arelen Vallie, Dawn Monahan, Scott Benjamin

Absent: Stephenson Aman, Shanay Reid, Venkat Rao, Meghan Callaghan, Carmen Magana, Karalynn O'Rourke, Henry Chu, Oscar Pena, Paul Wolff

Meeting Presentations and Discussions:

Kim Frashures Learning Community Project

The meeting was convened by Scott Benjamin (Paul Wolff working out of town). Kim Frashure (adjunct professor) had students from her Learning Community seminar on sustainability present a semester long project they worked on dealing with recycling at BHCC. Three working groups from the students presented:

- 1 – Social Media group – worked to form a Facebook presence creating a group and a slogan. The Facebook page is designed to educate students about recycling and other green initiatives. They have posted pictures and videos trying to educate students at BHCC about recycling

- 2 – Design team – this group worked to design buttons and bracelets as rewards for students recycling well. Also as prizes for people in the future when they fill out the recycling survey

- 3 – Survey team – this group of students took an inventory of all of the recycling bins in the school in all of the rooms, offices and hallways. The inventory was an indepth accounting of rooms with and without bins, and the type of bin present.

A lengthy group discussion followed the presentation -

Stephenson Aman posed many questions about locations of bins and different results to see if he could take action to help in the upcoming semester

Paul Righi was able to explain many of the present practices and problems behind some of the recycling efforts – including why there are no bins in the C pit or outside (past results were too much food trash mixed in). Hopeful plans for single stream recycling would alleviate many problems. He agreed with the group that education was a big piece and thought that the results of the survey that help to explain barriers to recycling could be a valuable tool in the future.

Discussion of faculty initiatives to help encourage recycling included the idea of adding classroom recycling information in the syllabi.

A number of members and students discussed problems they have had knowing where to find bins and what to recycle

Announcements

Arlene Vale was introduced to the committee as a new member to replace Debra Boyer position on the committee.

Health and Wellness Fair

An announcement regarding the health and wellness fair Dec. 15th – with many groups collaborating (sustainability club, nursing club, etc.)

Student Commuter Survey Update

Scott Benjamin discussed the upcoming student commuter survey project. This is a survey designed as a class project to provide commuter information for the BHCC climate report. Also to find possible policy solutions to encourage sustainable commuting practices amongst faculty and students.

Future Agenda Items

Indira and Alex from the sustainability club would like to present on some projects related to sustainability that they have been working on. They can be added to the February meeting agenda