

President's Climate Commitment Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

E175

2:30 – 3:30

Minutes

Present:

- Co-chair Jeff Ginsberg (Fiscal Affairs and Central Services), Co-chair Joseph Steffano (Facilities Management)
- Members: Jesse Thompson (Executive VP & CFO), Charles Abasa-Nyarko (Academic Affairs), Subrina Smith Taylor (Student Services & Enrollment Management), Weusi Tafawa (Controller), Debra Boyer (Registrar's Office), John Chirichiello (Facilities – Chelsea Campus), JoDe Lavine (Science), Y, Venkat Row (Mathematics), Weusi Tafawa (Business Office), Dawn Zapata (Professional Studies), Scott Benjamin (Science department), Patricia Wasson (Administration), Paul Righi (Facilities Management)

The president was not able to attend this meeting due to a conflict, but will be at the next meeting in January.

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

The committee then focused on reviewing the policy statements written by the three sub-committees formed at the meeting on November 13th.

- Waste Minimization Sub-Committee: Chair Mike McSweeney, Joe Steffano, Debra Boyer.
- Energy Star Procurement Sub-Committee: Chair Jeff Ginsberg, Joe Steffano, Weusi Tafawa, John Chirichiello.
- Green Building Sub-Committee: Chair Joe Steffano, Jeff Ginsberg, Chris Wilkins.

THE WASTE MINIMIZATION POLICY

Upon review of the policy statement written by the Waste Minimization Sub-Committee, the committee felt the language pertaining to double-sided printing might not always be viable. The language was changed to add "to the extent possible" after the sentence in order to allow for the exception of one user, single-sided printers currently in use at the college.

There was a question about whether or not BHCC would move forward with a can and bottle recycling program. Joe Steffano explained that the college had purchased its own bins and that with that purchase the vendor had offered to recycle the materials collected by the college at no cost. Joe suggested that instead the college could recycle these materials itself and donate the funds to Student

Activities. This issue was left open for further discussion and research through the Students Activities office.

ENERGY STAR PROCUREMENT POLICY

The committee had some concerns with the last line of the objective of this policy, which reads "... for all products where such ratings exist and whenever financially possible." The committee felt that the word "possible" might still tie the college to the policy, even when the purchase of a product was not within the college's budget. The language also did not provide any room for instances of space or usage limitations. The committee decided to remove the word "possible" and replace it with "and operationally feasible".

GREEN BUILDING POLICY

Upon review of the Green Building Policy statement, the committee found a concern with the language in the last half of the policy statement. It reads as follows: "The LEED Program is a building rating system that awards points in various design categories and rates buildings based on the number of points attained. The number of points attained result in a LEED certification; a silver, gold, or platinum certification. BHCC will adopt LEED Silver certification as the mechanism to guide the design and construction of all new building projects."

It was explained by Joe Steffano that LEED Silver certification is actually two steps above what Massachusetts requires of all of its new construction projects. The committee was concerned that these first two steps were not listed in the description above, which made it seem like BHCC was actually only reaching the lowest level of LEED certification. The committee decided to remove ". The number of points attained result in a LEED certification; a silver, gold, or platinum certification" from the policy statement.

Some on the committee also expressed concern that BHCC would be required to always adopt LEED certification in every new construction project going forward because of the language in the last sentence. It was ultimately decided that this would not pin the college to LEED Silver because the sentence outlines the LEED Silver certification as a guide and not a requirement.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INVENTORY

The committee then moved to speak about the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory required in the Implementation Guide. Co-chairs Jeff Ginsberg and Joe Steffano appointed Scott Benjamin to chair the sub-committee for the inventory. JoDe Lavin and Paul Righi also joined this committee. Joe Steffano was charged with setting up a separate meeting with the sub-committee to go over the requirements of the inventory.

NEWSLETTER

The issue of media dissemination was brought to the committee and marketing strategies were discussed. It was decided that the co-chairs would bring the idea of having a “Green Corner” space reserved in the newsletter for environmental-related articles to the appropriate parties. Joe also mentioned that there were several people that wanted to be a part of the committee’s work, but didn’t want to serve on the committee. Dawn suggested setting up a sub-committee with those who did not want to be a part of the larger committee to lend assistance with marketing and communication issues of the committee and volunteered to head this. This was left for further discussion.

TEMPERATURE VARIANCES

Joe Steffano reviewed the email he had sent to the committee on temperature variances for the college and presented a policy for handling the temperature of the Charlestown campus. The committee agreed that a policy should be in place and accepted Joe’s policy. Joe will prepare a written statement about the temperature policy for the college at large. John Chirichiello explained that a similar policy was already in place at the Chelsea campus.

COMMITTEE TASKS

The co-chairs then asked that everyone who volunteered for a position at the meeting to prepare something in writing for the committee’s review during the January meeting.

The next meeting of the committee will be on January 15, 2008 in E175 from 2:30 – 3:30.