

University of Houston

Campus Sustainability Task Force Meeting

April 30, 2009

Minutes

Old Business

- Meeting minutes from the April 7, 2009 meeting were approved.

New Business

- Presentation of STARS/Visioning Document – some key points discussed were:
 - Origin of STARS by universities; what is STARS; STARS & credits
 - sustainability training in new student orientation
 - sustainability course identification
 - new hire orientation
 - commuter options
 - STARS and the university's carbon footprint
- Action items related to STARS/Visioning Document
 - Bring in subject matter experts to address “Up the Stakes Goals” associated with the university's carbon footprint, beginning with commuting solutions. Meetings will be scheduled soon to focus on these initiatives.
 - Academics: Focus on new hires & new students; calendar of events, pre-planning of Recyclemania events.
- UH's Earth Day Celebration Seen Around the World
 - The University of Houston received much publicity for their Earth Day Carnival. The balloon launch, sponsored by Dr. Barry Lefer and his students, was a big hit across the globe. Pictures of the Earth Day Carnival Balloon Launch were seen as far away as (that we can document) Italy and right on the front page in the *Houston Chronicle*. This picture was apparently picked up by the Associated Press wire services as a picture of the day and went global. Links to the picture were found on the following web sites:
 - <http://www.texarkanagazette.com/news/WireHeadlines/2009/04/23/earth-day-in-houston-73.php>
 - <http://www.ocregister.com/photos/day-in-photos-2372357/pid2372358>
 - <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/object/article?f=/g/a/2009/04/22/earthday.DTL&o=1>

- www.baltimoresun.com/news/bal-dayinpictures,0,1933887.photogallery?index=bal-afp_gettykenyaworlay20081016124241
- <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/galleries/gallery/681157.html>
- <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-us-skiervisits,0,1871949.story>
- <http://dailysource.org/news/archived?day=26&month=4&year=2009>
- http://it.news.search.yahoo.com/search/news?fr=news_sb_hd&source=yahoo&c=yahoo_news&p=University%20of%20Houston&ei=windows-1252
- Membership housekeeping –
 - Appointees needed to replace graduating seniors: 3 SGA members and 1 from the Environmental Club
- Declined potential Speaking engagement: ‘**Boldly Sustainable: Hope and Opportunity for Higher Education in the Age of Climate Change**’ and opted to engage UH faculty to conduct presentations on sustainability research. Currently, Emily has discussed this opportunity with three faculty members all of whom are interested in hosting brown bag lectures this fall.
- Adjourned