

University of Houston
Sustainability Task Force
September 18, 2009
Meeting Minutes

Introduction of UH Green Team: Chris, Mai, Lori, Keerthi, Josh, Brittany, Tim, Trac and Mai

Also in Attendance: James Glennie, Dr. Barry Lefer, Emily Messa, Fred McGhee, Maria Honey, Jonas Chin

I. Discussion of Homework and *Sustainability on Campus* book, sustainability in curriculum

A. Emory University Atlanta – wooded campus, expansion of campus into forest, organized the people of campus that cared about environment

B. Ponderosa Project in Flagstaff – near grand canyon, only way to change the curriculum is to have financial incentive to teach courses or add concepts into their courses

II. Campus Sustainability Projects

A. Construction Sites

1. building design, recycling availability, policy in sustainable buildings

B. Green Tours- garden wooded area next to MacGregor Park (do a census, identify the eco system, offer tours)

C. Green commuting (ride board, carsharing program (ZIP car), have an RFP out now, Cornell has a ZIP car program, San Francisco has a great program, smart grid-intelligent energy networks,

1. The Green Commuting Dr is IN: is live now

D. Other Ideas

1. Solar Project, taking one of the parking garages and putting solar panels on the roof

2. marketing zip car now, fair trade and organic products, find out what faculty is interested in teaching sustainability courses, looking into sustainability bachelor's and master's degrees, honors college possible

3. challenging the departments to look at sustainability in the classroom, bring a sustainability twist to each course, school of sustainability idea

4. Develop a sustainability center, Berkeley developed a sustainability center – incredibly successful

5. Work with Faculty Senate to endorse sustainability in the classroom

6. Create cougar pride in sustainability/traditions

a. Build relationship with Professors with Pride, Dr. Bott bleeds cougar red, he is so excited about UH and gives students extra credit for going to UH events, advertise events at the start of the class, he also started PALS (faculty and staff) get six students to email, how do we integrate sustainability in orientation/cougar life programs, show that UH is committed to being green

7. Green UH Day Activities

a. Demonstrate a water filtration system with blind tasting

b. Electronic vehicle club (homemade electric cars), get details from Mr. Glennie, contact College of Architecture

c. Dumpster dive into a competition – contact Gracen, groups and organization will be talking about sustainable solutions

d. Demonstrations of green research on campus, green building components in Architecture

e. Green tour- tour around green areas on campus

f. Weather research balloon, moody tower air pollution gathering

g. Dr. DeGregori- symposium: sustainability a different perspective

III. Sub-Committee Updates and Reports

a. Climate and Energy-calculate the schools carbon foot print, how we run the university in order to reduce carbon emissions

1. November 5 is the goal for calculating carbon footprint, trying to find out how much paper is bought and where it comes from,

b. Marketing and Co-curricular-what does sustainability team, events outside the classroom, everyone, not just students

c. Curriculum & Student Classroom Experience-Emily with help of Morgan Kauffman, working with Affairs and Undergrad research, develop courses, establish catalog of courses and encourage faculty to teach more courses

1. Goal to catalog the course data, working with Provost office, work with Tran to catalog undergraduate sustainable research

D. Research, Development and Demonstration-how do we get more research and development increased on campus, bring more research because it benefits the students, tied to tier one goal, provide tie between industry and the university

1. Find a way to get the faculty on board, then go to Senate, start talking about the curriculum and R&D together

IV. Follow up Points for the next meeting / Action Items

1. Look at construction policies and post them
2. Continue to promote and plan Green UH Events
3. Build relationships with faculty members

DRAFT