

Environmental Advisory Committee
February 25th, 2011
minutes

Present:

Hannah Hutchins, Eric Pouliot, Crystal Rayamajhi, Dave Bahr, Laurie Desiderato, Jon Utley, Rich Marsolek, Dave Souba, Chinwuba Okafor, Erika Bailey-Johnson, Dana Danielson, and Pat Welle

SFE Report:

Group has been doing well. Broke into work groups last semester to accomplish more and now focusing on the Do it in the Dark competition and Earth Day. Some volunteer work was done at Paul Conklin's farm.

Earth Week Panel:

Erika is working on a panel of experts dealing with energy in policy to speak about the energy future in Minnesota for fifty years. This will happen on April 15th in the evening.

Response to Fountain Letter:

The EAC's letter was given to Bill Maki, and he stated that he is concerned about the artist's interpretation if the books are moved. It might be feasible that the fountain be made more efficient. Next time there is an art committee, the EAC will be contacted.

Logistic and Procurement position:

We will be adding a position to be represented from Logistics and Procurement to our by-laws due to the importance of purchasing with sustainability on campus.

Bottled Water:

The Psychology of Sustainability and the Sustainability Office are working on a campaign to reduce the amount of plastic consumed on campus by targeting bottled water and other drinks. We discussed the options of keeping this project going into the future and possibly banning the sale of bottled water. A taste test could be done every year, for that was a popular event, and Dave looked into a Coke dispenser that could be an option that could increase soda and juice sales into reusable containers instead of the plastic versions, but the machine is only in a prototype phase. A link for that is here, and it is called Coke Freestyle:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZd-Rj-rdLE>

If Aramark would not need to sell paper cups, there could be cost savings, but there is the challenge of getting people to return reusable products. We discussed creating a program similar to the reusable take-out containers or giving people a discount if they used a refillable mug in the Lower Union. Perhaps more of the reusable cups could be purchased and the program advertised?

Climate Action Plan:

The Climate Action Plan (CAP) is nearly finished, which is an outline of where the campus is and steps needed to follow our strategic plan for greater sustainability. To make this an effective document, there needs to be a body of people on campus that know it and will encourage the campus to continue reaching the goals of it. That should be the EAC! Lucky us, so we would like to encourage people to read through it. We would also like to create subcommittees to take charge of various sections of it to decrease the amount that any one person is responsible for. We all need to be aware of what indicators are being used to track our progress. We ask members to choose sections of the document that they feel pertinent to them or the entity they represent. We would like to present this document to the President's Cabinet.