

Environmental Advisory Committee Minutes

February 24th, 2012 – Ozawindib

Attendance:

Erika Bailey-Johnson, Dana Danielson, Laurie Desiderato, Hannah Hutchins, Lesa Lawrence, Jonathan Lembrick, Rich Marsolek, Dave Souba

Guests: Dylan Sievers, Alex Miller, Joseph Glatt, Emmy Ahrens, Brandon VanTassel, Brett Cease, Jon Utley

Topics:

- Students for the Environment report
 - Performed 2 successful energy blitzes in the dorms, handed out over 250 power strips for the Do It in the Dark energy saving competition
 - Preparing for Earth Week
 - E-waste recycling event planned, partnering with the City
- Sustainability Office report
 - Met with Residential Life and in the process of working to get a Sustainability floor in the dorms
 - Bucky's Bikes – looking to be student-run at the Laurel House instead of the OPC handling it
 - There is a plastic water bottle display in Hagg-Sauer, and will be moved around campus periodically throughout the semester
 - Landscaping – working on getting the AIRC gardens in place
 - Traditional Skills
 - Quinzhee building – Feb. 28th at 5:30
 - Erika and Brett met with the Rail River Folk School and the Indigenous Environment Network to discuss a comprehensive plan for expanding and educating people on Bemidji community gardens
 - “What do you do” posters – more and more are being creating and put up – keep an eye out for ‘em!
- CAP (Climate Action Plan)
 - Rich gave a little background on the CAP and the current status of it
 - Discussed creating a spreadsheet explaining the projects BSU has done that meets the needs of the CAP
 - Here is the link to the CAP:
http://www.bemidjistate.edu/sustainability/policies/presidential_commitment/
- Sustainable Procurement Guidelines
 - Goal of policy: to educate and promote sustainable procurement practices (when purchasing something, if feasible: reduce waste, increase efficiency, buy local, repair instead of buy new, etc.)
 - The Sustainability Office started this process two years ago and, after examining other organization's sustainable procurement documents, are ready to educate the campus on what it means to purchase in a more sustainable fashion
 - The term “Policy” changed to “Guidelines” as it is recommended actions (not required actions)
 - Meetings have been held with Dana Danielson, Belinda Lindell, Debbie Slough, and Deb Krueger to assess the draft document
 - document needs to be simple and easy to locate;
 - document should include both “best practices” and categories of products
 - EAC members recommended:

- a definition of “sustainable procurement” be included in the document;
 - it should be emphasized what we are already doing;
 - Linda Blight from Central Receiving should also be consulted;
 - a “decision tree” to assist users of the document;
 - making a web-based document that can be linked to various sites (Energy Star, current contract vendors, etc.);
 - the guidelines should be placed on the Procurement and Logistics website, as well as the Sustainability website
- Student Senate Bills
 - Student Senate asked for feedback for the following bills that will be brought forth to the Student Senate body in the coming weeks:
 - Green Building Standards: Much debate ensued about whether being officially certified is worth the money;
 - Sustainable Landscaping: Determined that a “plan” is a very good idea;
 - Renewable Energy: didn’t have time to discuss, will move to next meeting;
 - Climate Action Plan: didn’t have time to discuss, will move to the next meeting
 - Bills are attached

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Hutchins and Erika Bailey-Johnson