

President's Sustainability Committee

Minutes

April 21st, 2014, 1:00-2:30 pm

TILT 104

1. Introductions

- President Frank has approved the use of the name "President's Sustainability Committee" for this group.
- Amy Parsons is developing an email invitation to the other delegates.

2. Student Sustainability Survey

- Jeff Cook is a graduate student who created and delivered the student sustainability survey.
- The survey, which was open for two weeks, was sent to 4000 students and had an 18% response rate.
- This is a huge improvement from the 2013 survey which was sent to 3000 students and only 165 responded.
- 85% of respondents believe sustainability is important to CSU.
- 86% of respondents believe sustainability is important to them personally
- A large percentage of respondents do not see an ability to advocate for green initiatives on campus.
- Many respondents felt that ASCSU should dedicate some of its budget to sustainable student projects. \$2-4 were the most commonly suggested amounts.
- 73% of respondents agreed that CSU should implement a plan to phase out the use of plastic bags.
- The term "sustainability" was not defined in the opening of the survey; the term was left up to the interpretation of the respondents.
- The sustainability survey next year will include a question about a potential sustainability coordinator position on campus.

3. RecycleMania Results

- Grand Champion –CSU finished in 29th place out of 256 with a total of 48.912% recycled.
- Per Capita Classic – CSU finished in 163rd place out of 362.
- Gorilla (combo of trash and recycling) – CSU finished in 54th place out of 365.
- Waste Minimization – CSU finished in 28th place out of 218.
- Food Service Organics – CSU finished in 80th place out of 87.
- The size of the university matters. To get a better understanding of these results, peer institution results should also be analyzed.
- It is also important to note that commuter campuses do not produce as much trash as larger universities and often do well in RecycleMania.
- CU Boulder has not participated in RecycleMania in several years and once challenged CSU results. It would be interesting to compare their results.
- Sheela commented that overall, the amount of trash generated on campus is increasing.
- This could potentially be caused by the construction of the LSC and the disruption of recycling patterns.
- Sheela said that she is working with building proctors to make sure they understand all of the offered recycling services.

- Brian Dunbar said he was underwhelmed with RecycleMania rankings as compared to STARS. He suggested adding incentives to the RecycleMania competition to engage students better.
- It is also important to consider that several large universities may be focused on RecycleMania as their main sustainability initiative to complete for the year.
- CSU has many other sustainability initiatives (obviously) and the excitement value of RecycleMania is waning.
- It was suggested that Jeni Cross come to a future meeting to speak about her sociological insights relating to sustainable behaviors.
- It was also suggested that building proctors be invited to a future meeting for a mini-training session.

4. STARS Update

- Meagan shared the results of the Princeton Review's Green Honor Roll, which is a survey designed to match the STARS report. CSU did not rank on this Honor Roll.
- Though STARS data was used, the Princeton Review survey was much more condensed and therefore, the results are difficult to compare.
- If a school does not rank in the top tier, the score is not listed. CSU's score is unknown.
- Meagan assumes that CSU did not rank in the Honor Roll due to limited renewable energy credits. However, without knowing the score, it is impossible to pinpoint exactly why CSU did not rank.
- Meagan will follow up with the Princeton Review staff, to ensure they are receiving data in the right manner.
- Meagan then asked for feedback on a few STARS credits.
- The first credit discussed asked for three examples of local partnerships as supportive, collaborative or transformative.
 - FortZed – Transformative
 - Future Earth - Transformative
 - MAX – Transformative
 - Transit shuttle proposal - Transformative
 - Bike plan/bike share - Transformative
 - Mapping of employees – Transformative
 - CSU Cares – Collaborative
 - ClimateWise – Collaborative
 - Off Campus Life – Collaborative
 - Neighborhood Resources – Supportive
- The second credit asked for examples of campus working as a living laboratory for student engagement and public outreach.
 - Center for Public Deliberation
 - Many programs in the Powerhouse
- Meagan mentioned that she is also creating a sustainability survey that meets the STARS criteria. She can combine her survey with already existing survey efforts.

5. Fair Trade America Presentation

- A student group is working to get CSU officially Fair Trade America certified.
- The certification needs five badges and the group currently has three of the five.

- The student group has a resolution outlining the steps needed to become certified. They are asking for signatures from President Frank and Provost Miranda.
- The group would like to change the Housing and Dining mission statement to reflect fair-trade purchases.
- They are also working with Catering to offer fair-trade products, along with other products.
- The bookstore is already stocking fairly traded items.
- The student group has received guidance from The Center for Fair and Alternative Trade on campus.
- The group asked the Committee if there is an employee who could add fair trade certification management to their job description, which would help the group earn another certification badge.
- The students clarified that this could be added into multiple job descriptions.
- Andrew Oringer suggested that the group bring their resolution to ASCSU Senate to consider. It would be more powerful to have the students back an initiative and a PSC endorse the initiative.

7. Updates from Members

Next meeting: Monday, May 19th, 1-2:30 pm, **TBD**