

Minnesota State University, Mankato
Environmental Committee – 2009

Environmental Committee Meeting Notes for October 20, 2009

Meeting Notes:

- Attendance:
 - Monika Antonelli
 - Steve Ardolf
 - Zack Bateson
 - Paul Corcoran
 - Ryan Ihrke
 - Mary Nere
 - Kim Rademaker
 - Louis Schwartzkopf
 - Sam Steiger
 - Gary Urban

Agenda Topics:

- **New Business**
 - Committee membership
 - All attending members agree to continued participation and are interested in being involved with the new Sustainability Subcommittee.
 - Bargaining Unit Representation
 - Ryan Ihrke has been approached by individuals outside of the MSU, Mankato community whom expressed interest in participating in a sustainability oriented discussion. Ryan informed the individuals that their involvement would not be appropriate at this time.
 - No other committee members were aware of other interested individuals.
 - Meeting Structure
 - All members present supported an informal meeting structure with stipulations that an agenda be provided and the committee remains productive and on task.
 - Meeting time and location
 - All members present supported a meeting time of 12 pm on Thursday. Meetings will be scheduled one time per month with additional meetings as necessary. The next Environmental Committee meeting will occur on Thursday, November 20 at 12 pm. The meeting location will be determined at a later date.
 - Membership expectations
 - All members present supported the expectation that members will attend all meetings, as permitted by prior obligations. No minimum requirements were set for member participation.
 - Chair/Co-chair appointments
 - Ryan Ihrke was unanimously elected as Co-chair of the Environmental Committee.
 - Committee goals

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- Members were asked to think of projects to support if and when a MSU Green Fund (see below) is adopted.
- **Old Business**
 - Sustainable Vision Document and Cabinet Presentation
 - Energy Audit
 - The commitment by the Administration to conduct an energy audit was not upheld. Little more is known at this time. Louis Schwartzkopf indicated that he will try and speak with Rich Straka prior to the next meeting to determine current status.
 - Campus Outreach and Energy Management Letter
 - Kevin Clement provided an example from the Shakopee school district of ways in which the schools are promoting energy efficiency. He also suggested this may be a manner in which we approach publicizing the University's efforts to reduce energy consumption and provide suggestions for increasing sustainability to the University community.
 - MSU Green Fund
 - All members agree, in concept, to a MSU Green Fund dedicated to promoting sustainability. Members were asked to provide suggestions at the next meeting.
 - Ryan Ihrke informed the committee of a \$5 fee dedicated to sustainability currently being assessed at Minnesota State University, Bemidji. MSSA representatives will be asked to obtain more information associated with this fee and the process by which Bemidji implemented the fee.
 - All committee members whom are MSU employees were in support of a tax-deductible donation which would be combined with student contributions. More information is needed to assess feasibility and implementation. Kevin Clement stated he would schedule a meeting with Rich Straka to discuss issues associated with a Green Fund and other committee related issues (e.g., The new Sustainability Sub-committee and the future of the Environmental Committee)
 - Presidents Climate Commitment
 - Ryan Ihrke will inquire to other MnSCU institutions that have signed the Presidents Climate Commitment to get an update on their progress and issues associated with the commitment.
 - Other issues associated with the Presidents Climate commitment will be addressed with Rich Straka by Louis Schwartzkopf and Kevin Clement on separate occasions with reports at the next committee meeting.