

Environmental Affairs Committee

Meeting Minutes – Feb. 27th 2018

Members Present:

Poliana Raymer
Ferris Kawar
Janet Harclerode*
Michelle King

Members Excused:

Garen Baghdasarian
Susan Fila
Alexa Hernandez – Student Representative

1. Call to Order:
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 12:50pm.
2. Public Comments:
 - a. Stuart Cooley talked about an Emeritus student's idea for a mural with the theme "Maps of Time" or "Big History", an artwork illustrating the Big Bang until present times (see David Christian's TED Talk "The history of our world in 18 minutes"). This would be a mega-project involving students from multiple fields and includes a sustainability thread, showing how long humans have existed. Ferris suggested seeing if a group of local muralists can guide students in such a project.
3. CEUS Updates
 - a. Ferris has taken on recycling duties, with 6 student workers. In the attempt to reduce paper waste, he sent an e-mail to the school encouraging faculty to opt for electronic syllabi rather than hard copies. He requested feedback from those who received the e-mail and proposed going to department meetings to hear directly from faculty.
 - b. Math and Science building: Ferris and Stuart are working to provide all the resources necessary for a LEED Platinum certification (current goal: LEED Gold). Stuart raised the question as to whether the construction group has been selected, as they can significantly impact certification process. Ferris brought up the fact that this is a building with multiple labs, with expectedly high energy consumption.
 - c. A growing number of universities have been divesting from fossil fuel. Much research has been done on the topic. Ferris raised the question "How much are we invested in fossil fuel?" and mentioned potential endowment from SMC Foundation, KCRW and auxiliary services. All three are opened to changes, as this makes moral and financial sense.
 - d. On March 14th Ferris and Stuart are initiating an Industry Advisory Board for the Photovoltaic and Energy Efficiency Programs.
 - e. Ferris requested that we would encourage students to come to the Corsair Market on Wednesdays, 2:30pm. Students are receiving ~\$20-\$30 worth of donated produce every week.

- f. March 6th: sign up for Student Greening Workshop held by Sustainable Works. Workshop starts week of March 12th.
- 4. Sustainability Resolution
 - a. The resolution that was being designed last semester was brought up by Poliana Raymer. There is currently a need to finish the resolution so that it can be sent to the Academic Senate for approval. Further steps need to be looked into.
 - b. The committee discussed different ways in which we could help faculty members make this resolution applicable in the classrooms:
 - i. Stuart suggested reviewing the book recommendations (fiction and non-fiction) that were made by the EAC a few semesters ago.
 - ii. Some students have been assigned by Ferris to research on how sustainability can be applied to different fields of study.
 - iii. It was agreed that Earth Week could be an opportunity for the Committee to gain an initial understanding of the faculty's interest (or lack thereof) of including sustainability in their course material. The Committee would look to investigate the challenges for faculty to adapt and how we can help overcome these challenges. This is also an opportunity to recruit new faculty members to the Committee.
 - 1. A physical meeting was suggested at the start of Earth Week, followed by an electronic survey.
 - 2. This information would give the Committee enough material to work towards a Fall 2018 Flex Day Workshop.
- 5. The meeting was adjourned at 1:50pm.