

Environmental Stewardship Advisory Council

Meeting Notes
January 28, 2005
9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
President Merwin's Office

Attendees:

Christine Andrews	Lewis Johnson
Al Bielen	Jennifer Languell
George Brown	President Merwin
Peter Blaze Corcoran	Joe Shepard
Barrett Genson	Graham Walker
Bill Hammond	Roberta Walsh

Note Taker: Judy Nothdurft, GA

A. Opening Remarks

- President Merwin welcomed the attendees and noted that Susan Evans will be reviewing the terms of current members serving on the ESAC for any expirations and renewals.
- The following members present expressed interest in continuing to serve on the Council: Christine Andrews, Al Bielen, George Brown, Peter Corcoran, Barrett Genson, Bill Hammond, Joe Shepard and Roberta Walsh.
- Elizabeth Stewart, new President of the Environmental Club, will succeed Graham Walker next month in representing this student organization.
- Continuing service by members not present will be confirmed.
- New members of the ESAC will include Jennifer Languell, Director of the WCI Green Building Project; Lewis Johnson, Director, Environmental Health & Safety; and Susan Blanchard, School of Engineering.
- President Merwin requested that Jennifer Languell and Lewis Johnson attend and give presentations on their respective projects at the next Board of Trustees Meeting in April.

B. Introductions

- Joe Shepard introduced Lewis Johnson, the new Director, Environmental Health & Safety for FGCU. He has extensive experience in campus environmental health and safety issues, most recently from the University of Florida.
- Bill Hammond introduced Brenda Brooks-Solveson, the Campus Naturalist, who was not able to attend the meeting. Her position is funded by the Miromar Group. Bill displayed a poster titled *Working Together to Restore Wetlands & Wildlife*, a joint effort by FGCU and Miromar.
- President Merwin introduced Jennifer Languell. She discussed her work coordinating the LEED certification for the WCI Green Building to be constructed on campus as a Demonstration and Learning Center for environmental sustainability for both university and community use. (information sheet distributed) Silver LEED Certification is being pursued for the project. Groundbreaking is expected to be by Fall 2005 and will be hosted by ESAC.

C. Environmental Stewardship Plan Update

- Lewis Johnson reported that he is reviewing and compiling all ESAC sub-committee reports and anticipates coalescing them into a single draft ESAC Plan during March.
- Lewis noted a great deal of continuity within the sub-committee reports and acknowledged much had already been accomplished at FGCU.
- Lewis will conduct interviews with key individuals on the ESAC Plan Working Groups as well as others to assist in the process.

D. University Leaders for a Sustainable Future (ULSF): Next Steps

- ULSF is the Secretariat for signatories for the Talloires Declaration, which is an official ten-point statement signed by university administrators as a commitment to environmental sustainability in higher education. (copies distributed)
- Discussion pursued regarding President Merwin signing the Talloires Declaration in conjunction with either the groundbreaking or ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the WCI Green Building as well as coordinating with the ESAC Plan completion.
- The nine ULSF recommendations from the March 24, 2004 campus visit will be incorporated into the ESAC Plan.

E. Update on Ginn Project

- Joe Shepard reported that the Ginn Project has received permitting approval from five of seven Lee County departments.
- The project has transitioned from a high-density plan to meeting the DRGR requirements as a result of developing a relationship with the University.

F. Miscellaneous Items

Other matters discussed during the meeting were the Lee County Mitigation Plan and its relation to FGCU, the campus trail system, the 5-Year Plan for FGCU, campus residence density and lack of green space, and National Environmental Education Week (April 10-16, 2005).

G. Announcements

- Roberta Walsh announced that Dr. Grubbs is working with a team consisting of university faculty and members of the planning community to propose a 12 credit hour Certificate of Planning with an environmental planning focus. It may eventually be incorporated into an Environmental Policy and Planning concentration for the MPA program.
- Peter Corcoran announced the United Nation's Decade of Environmental Sustainability (2005-2014), which promotes the role of higher education in sustainable development. (information distributed) Peter attended the first event in India and presented on FGCU's Colloquium.
- Bill Hammond announced that the development of the MA in Environmental Studies is close to completion and will hopefully be ready for consideration at the April Board of Trustee meeting. There is already an existing MA in Environmental Science program at FGCU.

The next ESAC meeting will be in March and members will be notified in advance.

