

Environmental Stewardship Advisory Council

Meeting Notes
March 18, 2005
9:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Library Rm. 148

Attendees:

Colin Bennar	Barrett Genson
Al Bielen	Bill Hammond
Susan Blanchard	Lewis Johnson
Margaret Bogan	Jennifer Languell
Brenda Brooks-Solveson	President Merwin
George Brown	Joe Shepard
Peter Blaze Corcoran	Elizabeth Stuart
Wayne Daltry	Roberta Walsh
Cathy Duff	

Note Taker: Judy Nothdurft, GA

A. Opening Remarks

- President Merwin welcomed the new and returning ESAC members.
- President Merwin also noted that the potential administrative burden that the Draft Environmental Stewardship Plan could place on some staff must be carefully considered.

B. Introductions

- Roberta Walsh expressed regret that some of the members were not able to attend the ESAC meeting due to a scheduling conflict with the Faculty Senate and noted that there would be a separate meeting to update them on the Plan and obtain their comments.
- Participants introduced themselves.

C. Status Report: FGCU Environmental Stewardship Plan

I. Lewis Johnson's opening remarks on the Draft Environmental Stewardship Plan (Plan)

- Lewis conveyed that he tried to decentralize the Plan and not dictate to the academic units.
- He noted the need to incorporate measurements, assignment of responsibility, and timelines for accomplishment of the tasks in the Plan.
- He explained that the administrative responsibilities were more fleshed out due to his personal administrative experience.
- Lewis requested feedback on feasibility as well as on available resources to accomplish the Plan.
- The Plan is currently drawn up with the intention that budget requests and goals would be set by departments next fall. Lewis has also added tasks to keep momentum going during the first year as unfunded mandates.

II. General Comments on the Plan:

- Joe Shepard noted the importance of both the University's budget and Strategic Plan and stressed the need for the Stewardship Plan to "overlay" with the Strategic Plan.
- Joe also conveyed the need for cost benefit analysis when designing campus buildings.
- President Merwin stressed that the Stewardship Plan was an implementation plan and explained that the budgeting aspects would become a part of the institutional process.
- Lewis also requested background information on the rationale for the ESAC Working Groups.
- Roberta Walsh indicated the rationale for the Working Groups was based on the approach taken with the Task Forces that had worked on the Environmental Management System under the EPA process, with two groups added to address other needs (Community/Communications and Education/Research).
- Lewis indicated the need to schedule in more student and faculty participation and requested feedback on that matter.
- Bill Hammond commented that it may not be good to divide responsibilities by Colleges and recommended working with the Provost on assigning responsibility.

III. Comments on LEED and FGBC:

- Both Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) standards were discussed including cost effectiveness.
- Jennifer Languell recommended starting with the FGBC, as it is less tedious.
- Lewis recommended that the University join the LEED organization.
- President Merwin stressed the need to balance the laudable goal of LEED building certification with a rapidly expanding campus and requested information on the implications of LEED certification.
- Jennifer recommended looking at the productivity rate and life cycle of the building, as well as the operation and maintenance costs to determine the value of LEED certification. She noted that certification levels above the LEED silver level are not cost effective.

IV. Comments on Environmental Management Systems:

- Lewis discussed the tasks to educate campus staff to consider recycled products during the procurement process and the possibility of reporting progress in this area to the Environmental Health and Safety Department.
- The proposal to integrate printers with copying machines, making double-sided copies, and setting them at draft quality to reduce the ink usage was discussed.
- Lewis recommended that each department set up their own recycle program instead of mandating specific requirements.
- Colin Bennar and Elizabeth Stuart discussed how to increase the "bike culture" on campus indicating the need for an on-campus bike repair shop and more people to help with the bike program.

V. Comments on Plan Organization:

- Peter Corcoran recommended that the various goals in the draft Plan be prioritized to reflect their level of importance.
- Bill Hammond recommended indicating which items in the Plan are legally required and

which are policy decisions.

- Lewis received approval from the members to cross integrate the goals and tasks between the Working Groups rather than preserving the artificial separation between the groups.

VI. Comments on QEP and Curriculum:

- Roberta Walsh conveyed that ESAC's link with the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is a key point and further noted that the Stewardship Plan should integrate with QEP.
- Peter Corcoran indicated that ESAC should take a broader look at curriculum than QEP and also suggested professional development for faculty to assist in making sustainability part of courses.
- Joe Shepard recommended that Lewis meet further with Dr. Peg Gray-Vickrey regarding the QEP.
- Both Wayne Daltry and Peter Corcoran indicated the need to strengthen the goal for utilization of research by the University.

VII. Comments on Grounds Maintenance:

- Al Bielen commented that reporting on cleared and remaining exotics is required by South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and posed the question of whether mandatory requirements should be considered part of the Plan.
- Al also questioned the need for quarterly reporting on the Internet of exotics removal and agrichemical usage on campus.
- Al noted that the Athletic Department is responsible for maintaining athletic fields and it is not possible for them to use drip irrigation.
- Bill Hammond indicated the need for Best Management Practices to assist the Athletic Department with maintenance of the athletic fields.
- Elizabeth Stuart discussed an idea for a sustainable garden and habitat area on campus with fruit trees and native plants and indicated the idea had received much support from the Environmental Club. Jennifer Languell indicated that this may be possible on the Green Building site.

D. Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Update

- Cathy Duff provided an update on the QEP and explained that the reaffirmation of accreditation process would include a campus site visit from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) from March 28-30.
- SACS may request meetings with individuals during the site visit.
- Frequently Asked Questions on the QEP were distributed to the members.
- Cathy recommended reviewing the full QEP document, which is available at <http://itech.fgcu.edu/sacs/QEP-2005.pdf>.
- Cathy explained the QEP is a forward-looking document and includes review of the Colloquium, community involvement, and the 5 Year Plan.
- Cathy is now working in a newly formed unit in Academic Affairs called Curriculum & Instruction.

D. Closing Remarks

- Roberta Walsh conveyed the need to schedule regular ESAC meetings to help members plan in advance to attend.
- She also indicated the ESAC website would be updated and the draft Plan would be posted for review as it further develops.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 p.m.