

Minutes
UK Sustainability Committee
March 6, 2008
203 Student Center

Attendees: Aaema Athar, Larry Crouch, Carol Hanley, Matt Harmin, Bill Harris, Dick Levine, Bob Rathbone, Cheryl Taylor, Shane Tedder, Mark Williams, Bob Wiseman, Ernie Yanarella, Conan Brooks, Ben Crutcher, Monica Stoch, Gail Hairston (UK Public Relations).

Welcome and Introductions: Bob Wiseman welcomed the group and members introduced themselves.

New Business:

1. Wiseman reviewed the charge to the committee (attached) and summarized the process for selecting the members, which included nominations from the Provost, Dean of Agriculture, Vice President for Student Affairs, Student Government Association, UK Green Thumb and the Mayor's Office, with official appointments by President Todd. In addition to ex-officio members Crutcher, Stoch, and Brooks (Sustainability Graduate Intern) the committee composition is as follows:

- A. Two members from university business operations. (Wiseman '10; Harris '09)
- B. Two faculty members (Yanarella'10; Levine'09)
- C. Two student members. (Athar '10; Harmin'09)
- D. One member from the College of Agriculture (Williams '10)
- E. One member from Student Affairs (Crouch '09)
- G. One member representing the university research mission (Rathbone '10)
- H. One member from the Lexington Community (Non UK) (Taylor '09)
- I Two at Large (Tedder '10; Hanley '09)
- J Sustainability Coordinator (Ex Officio) (Future)

It was noted that this committee replaces the two previous committees: the Sustainability Task Force, which had been active from January 2005 through spring 2007, and the original "environmental task force," active from December 2002 through 2004. It was added that any interested person in the university community may attend regularly scheduled meetings.

2. In accordance with the charge to the committee, co-chairs were elected by the group: Carol Hanley (representing business operations) and Mark Williams (faculty representative).

3. The group agreed to meet on either the first, second or fourth Thursday afternoon of the month. Stoch agreed to work with the co-chairs to determine the best meeting time and to send out meeting invitations to the group following the meeting.

4. The group agreed to form three subcommittees (academic, business operations, and community outreach), which could then be changed/modified at a later date. Goals suggested by the group included:

Academic:

- Integrate sustainability into the curriculum
- Develop projects that cross departments/colleges (example: solar decathlon project)

Business Operations:

- Develop baseline data
- Develop goals related to improving on baseline data
- Develop pilot test programs
- Benchmarking

Community Outreach:

- Partnership with city
- Make UK a model of sustainability
- Involve students in civic activities/programs
- Environmental education for the public
- Marketing opportunities for UK
- Oversee listserv, webpage and sustainability events
- Assist with communication

The importance of strategic planning was noted, along with the importance of recognizing that sustainability also includes social justice and economic vitality. The “University of Kentucky Statement on Sustainability Policy,” which was drafted in April 2007, was distributed (attached). It was noted that this report has not been officially adopted, but members were encouraged to review the document and discuss it at the next committee meeting.

Group members were asked to serve on at least one subcommittee, with volunteers as follows:

Academic: Yanarella, Levine, Harmin, Athar

Business Operations: Harris, Crouch, Tedder, Wiseman

Outreach/Engagement: Yanarella, Taylor, Hanley, Williams, Levine, Rathbone

Subcommittees were asked to meet prior to the next committee meeting. Members were encouraged to bring other interested campus individuals into the process and incorporate them into the subcommittees.

Project/Event Updates

1. Brooks reported that UK is participating in the pilot phase of STARS (Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System), a voluntary, self-reporting framework for gauging relative progress toward sustainability for colleges and universities, sponsored by AASHE. Group members were encouraged to visit the website at <http://www.aashe.org/stars/>
2. Brooks reported that UK’s sustainability website will be updated, with a proposed design to be brought to the next committee meeting.
3. Stoch reported that two listservs will be established: one listserv for members of the UK Sustainability Committee and one listserv for anyone interested in sustainability.
4. Tedder provided a summary of Earth Days in the Bluegrass and encouraged group members to visit the website at www.earthdaysinthebluegrass.org
5. Tedder reported that in late 2006 UK was awarded a congestion mitigation and Air Quality Project Grant to implement the high priority items on the 2005 Campus Bike Plan. Work should begin in late April.
6. Levine & Brooks reported on the recent NACUBO webcast, “Commit to Change: Leading Your Campus Towards Climate Neutrality.” Brooks will send an electronic copy of the slides to the group.
7. Hanley reported on two upcoming projects: “Cans for Cash” and the EPA Care Grant. More information is available at www.uky.edu/sustainability/greencities

Next Meeting Date:

Stoch will send an electronic meeting invitation to the group for the next meeting.

There being no Old Business and no Open Discussion, the meeting was adjourned.