

**9/11/06 Meeting of the Sustainability Task Force**  
**Edited by Committee 9/18/06**

Attending: Copp, Madsen, Meyer, Cain, Gallenberg, Hagen, Braun, Koehler, Stifter and Halada

Introductions

Discussed

- the Faculty Senate's decision to postpone committee assignments and acceptance of goals until 9/20 meeting. This sustainability meeting was scheduled assuming confirmation on 9/6.
- Also questioned whether the 10/30 deadline for action steps was for each "goal" committee, or if it was Faculty Senate's deadline to approve action plans.

Kelly shared the conversations and the meeting discussion with Mike Hodges and colleagues from WPPI. Dale B said we are WPPI's largest customer in RF and that UWRF uses 20% of River Falls' utilities. Governor Doyle's summer energy initiative prompted WWPI to contact UWRF to discuss potential partnerships. Per meeting of 9/6/06 on campus, WWPI will be submitting proposals to UWRF later this fall. Dale B is going to schedule a meeting in Madison w/ representation from UWRF, DOA and WPPI.

Dale B discussed the visit by Division of State Facilities and the State's Chief Engineer to campus of a couple weeks ago. Reported that they understand the role the State needs to play – one of leadership; that the payback may no longer be the sole determination for projects; and that they may have dollars for this initiative.

Mike talked about the impending purchase by students of blocks of green power in exchange for the construction of a "green" kiosk in the new Student Center. Mentioned the opportunity to partner with multiple other sources also. Mike also explained the utility/energy competition in the residence halls during 05-06. WPPI has given a rough estimate of \$19,000 in the purchase of green blocks to power the new student center w/ green power. Discussed potential operational changes – i.e., new building manager to patrol campus at night to turn off lights, etc.

Kelly has made some contacts with the web development office and wrote up a draft outline which was distributed. It's important to have a "sustainability" website/a one stop shop, for information, history, and an inventory of sustainable efforts on campus.

We have become members of AASHE Assn for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education – Mary will send out that information to the group.

We are registered for the webcast teleconference: *Where is Your Campus on the Continuum of Integrated Sustainability Planning* scheduled on 10/25 from 11:30 until 1:30 – on Campus Sustainability Day. Location and notification to campus pending.

We want to monitor building environmental performance to include reporting of that information and create action steps based on that information. We have data now and we need to ensure that it's being used to accomplish our goals and track our progress. Historical information is available.

General discussion about the need to change human behavior – this will be a big energy conservation step for us. We have numerous mechanical improvement projects on campus, but there is room for improvement of our behaviors. We have second best (lowest) BTU/GSF usage in the system. Only Stout is more efficient.

We need to consider how to network and build our presence as a “sustainable” leader. There are multiple conferences coming up that we may want to consider. Mary asked for interest. The Madison 10/18 meeting would be good for finding potential partners. The AASHE conference would be good from a curricular standpoint.

Discussion about the Wisconsin Energy Initiative – Waldo gave some history.

At our next meeting we need to work on defining sustainability. It's important for us to have a campus “agreed upon” definition. We raised the need for a broad based definition of sustainability to include social justice and equity issues as well as ecological and economic contexts. Our action plan needs to include efforts to bring sustainability into the curriculum, into Gen Ed to a greater degree than currently, and into majors and minors.

We will be brainstorming action steps and Mary asked that everyone email in **potential action steps** for an early draft to be used for discussion at that meeting. Since Senate will be meeting on 9/20, we agreed to meet at 2:30 on 9/25 – two weeks from today at 2:30. Keep in mind the short time frame!