Minutes, October 22, 2012
Sustainability Working Group

Meeting 3:30 AM – 4:30 PM in the Apple River Room

Present: Kelly Cain, Ian Johnson, Mike Stifter, Jessica Pett, Dean Olson, Charlie Rader, Jerry Waller, Tim Thum, Jabez Meulemans, Tracy O’Connell, Brenda Dunse

Introductions and welcome:

Approve Previous Minutes: Minutes from the October 8, 2012 will be available for review for the next meeting.

ZimRide Update: November 13, 2012 Jabez, Molly and Kelly will take ZimRide to the Student Senate for consideration. The agenda provides a review of ZimRide and where it goes from here. The proposal is conditional based on student interest. For the survey a 5 point Likert-type scale with 1 being no interest -5 definite interests is being suggested and would include a variety of ZimRide topics. Administration has agreed to pay up to 20 %.

Jerry provided a brief feedback summary from some of the other UW system campuses currently utilizing the ZimRide program. Oshkosh is pleased with their program. Eau Claire/LaCrosse is very successful with ZimRide. Green Bay is not sure it can renew due to budget. Stout was on board for ZimRide in the spring of 2012 with plans to vote in the fall student senate. In the fall it was not brought back up which was frustrating being all were on board in the spring.

Implementation was seamless to implement for the other UW system campuses with the use of a ZimRide mass email it was well received. Eau Claire experienced rapid success with one thousand the first twenty four hours. UWRF is not able to utilize mass email. It is an administration decision that only student health and emergency needs be sent out via mass email to students and no mass emails to faculty/staff.

Campus Sustainability Day: October 24, 2012, All-day event on campus.

Showing of One Day on Earth, with a keynote broadcast to follow in the Falcon’s Nest from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM. and possibility an evening showing of One Day on Earth, still TBD – Ian.

Public viewing of “FRESH”: November 5, 2012 co-sponsored by SALSA & SCISCD, Jabez added that posters are up around campus.
**Future Farm Tour:** John and Pam Vrieze of Baldwin, WI have invited Sodexo, our four undergrads, and SWG to visit their large commercial greenhouse heated by converting fertilizer from the dairy into fuel with the use of an anaerobic digester on November 6, 2012. Future Farm uses a combination of aquaculture and hydroponics. Sodexo will be looking at Future Farm as a possible source for fresh vegetables and fish raised locally. Hopefully a win/win working relationship will be established. Another tour is being planned for SALSA in the future.

**Student Satisfaction Survey:** Kristie Feist from Residence Life has provided SWG with an opportunity to provide content recommendations for their student survey. This survey has a very good return rate, 95%. The survey is 100 questions of which 10-15 are open campus questions. What in terms of sustainability practices do we want to learn from this survey? The group offered the following suggestions; literacy of sustainability practices with learning objectives in place, new student orientation of sustainability on campus, STARS – inform, and transportation-vehicle on campus, biking, WeCar, and possibly ZimRide.

Questions:

Would you be interested in a sustainability living environment? Likert type -3 – 0 being neutral and +3 strongly agree.

I would be interested in a floor or dorm devoted to sustainability living. Agree – Disagree.

We will put together a refined sense of what we think they will be looking for.

**Faculty Fellows Update:** There is funding for two faculty members to attend Emory University Sustainability Curriculum Leadership Workshop in January. These two faculty would then run the 3rd Annual Kinnikinnic Project Workshop. No one has stepped up yet.

**Office of Sustainability:** Student awareness does not flow to the institute. There are some administrative hurdles; set of accounts and the same staffing budget. What would the pros and cons be of an Office of Sustainability?

**Strategic Plan Initiatives:** 2013 – 14 initiatives are due by November 1, 2012. STARS is currently in the campus plan although weak on the investment side. Academic could weave into faculty fellows. RDI roof – installation of a 12kW of fixed photovoltaic panels and 4kW of dual access tracker, the project is currently in the engineering stage to go out to bid early spring. Other valuable projects are the student garden and the Sustainable Community Masters. The sustainability Incubator draft is going to the Steering Committee on Friday. Clearing must come out of a triple bottom line perspective. Are there things that we can go after that require no
cash outlay? Work with Human Resources to create a more formalized statement of sustainability commitment for the campus community.