

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
02.19.07 MEETING
7 PM IN THE POINT SABLE ROOM

Members: Crystal Osman, Secretary; Edward Ehlert, Senator; Andy Rosendahl, Senator; Mike Seleskie, Senator; Anton Williams, Senator; Kelly Mech, Senator; Michael Gross, Senator

Resource Liaison: Dean Rodeheavor, Assistant Chancellor for Planning and Budget

Attendance: Williams, Rosendahl, Seleskie, Gross, Ehlert, Osman

- I. **New Organization (5 min)** Crystal will take minutes this time, next time Natalie the SGA Assistant will be available for minute taking. Two new members—Anton Williams and Michael Seleskie. Introductions around the table.
- II. **Survey Results (30 min)** Excellent results given the time frame, over 900 responses.
 1. **Our reaction** A few things that stood out for the committee—Recycling; Why does the Nic no longer recycle? Common Grounds? Andy and Michael S. will look into those issues with the Union and Dining Committee next Tuesday and report back to the group. Styrofoam; many students wondered why we no longer recycle Styrofoam, as a point of information: we never recycled the styrofoam, it was put into a compactor to reduce the space it took up. Is there any way that we can get rid of it completely? There are still some used for larger sized beverages in some areas of the university dining. Comments—over 150 comments total—it still seems that the general student body does not comprehend the complexity of the issue and its importance to all majors and students/faculty/staff. Maybe the rest of the semester will focus on general awareness?
 2. **Sustainability Committee Suggestions** First of all, very good job on the survey! The Sustainability Committee had a lot of comments and it seemed that the work we all did with this survey is going to be very beneficial for them and us. So good job! The Committee is working on a website, I will send that out to get feedback. The priorities of the Committee are in the works to be set, it looks like much of the rest of this semester will be based around getting raising awareness of environmental issues, what we are currently doing on campus, what has been proposed, where we are actually moving, etc. UW Energy Independence issue for 4 UW schools in 5 years. Caught Anton and Michael up on these issues. NatureWise—it comes primarily from within WI, but a portion for the last year has had to come from outside of WI due to limits from the federal gov't across the nation on wind farms, it costs 1.69 per student per

semester. Chancellor matches these funds and puts the money toward conservation initiatives on campus. If NatureWise is no longer funded by the students does that mean that the Chancellor no longer contributes? NatureWise will come up again for next year's renewal. Cigarette Smoke, is an issue that was brought up in the comments—what can be done about it, lots of students react negatively to the smoke, and the smokers definitely are closer than 20 feet to the entrances. 4th Estate, is the paper recycled? Why do they print so many papers each week? So many of them are left behind every week, and simply disposed of. Yes people who live on campus actually drive their cars to their classes. For some reason they think it is faster and less walking! Again, this is an awareness issue. This all comes back to the culture of the students/faculty/and staff. This is what needs to change if we want anything really major to happen, everyone is going to need to recognize that they are just as important in this as everyone else.

- III. Priorities for rest of semester (15 min)** What will we focus on the rest of the semester, with the thought that this is all over May 1. Top issues with students are recycling, reducing waste, Awareness. Then renewable energy, energy conservation. Something the EA Committee is concerned about is the state of the Arboretum.
- IV. Establish responsibilities and timeline for accomplishing priorities (15 min)** Brainstorming: Recycling—res. halls, cloud commons, common grounds; Awareness—renewable energy, energy conservation, tuition, waste reduction. By Feb. 26 Michael and Andy will have a report back about recycling bins in cloud commons and common grounds. Michael will also have a report back about recycling room possibilities in res. halls. All out Awareness Campaign—All materials will be ready to release by Monday March 19th, week before spring break, the week directly after spring break we get the campaign going. Banners, literature, etc. Monday Feb. 26th we will set details. Finalize and start production March 5.
- V. Updates/Announcements/Other (5 min)** No updates or announcements made.
- VI. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm**