

09/17/2009

Environmental Steering Committee

Minutes

Attending: Andrew Armstrong, Debra Ballard, Katie Phillips, MariBeth Baloga, Jason Burton, Cathy Chambers, Richard M. Shelton, Gwynne Keathley, Laura Kiralla, Holly Tempo, Marc Meredith, Paul Newhouse, Claude Nica, Christopher Paterno
Students: Nicole B. White, Devin Week

Katie Phillips outlined the sustainability presentation planned for October 14th, 2009 at the Academic Assembly meeting. Katie, Rose Brantley, Rich Shelton and Sammy Hoi will present.

Consultant Sherry Hoffman and faculty members outlined her project for the ESC “making sustainability visible at Otis.”

- Review and analysis of sustainability practices, aspirations and visibility.
- Asked the question, “What is sustainability’s relationship to the whole school as well as to the community of Los Angeles?”
- Spoke about reaching out to students, alumni, and faculty through questionnaire, open forums, student interviews and visiting classrooms.

A presentation on the Otis Resource Exchange was given by O-Cycle founder and Fine Arts senior Nicole B. White. O-Rx will strive to:

- Act as a materials exchange, salvaging and re-using waste
- Discover better ways to use materials at Otis
- Reduce waste

A presentation of the sustainability section of the Otis website was given by Foundation department assistant Billy Moschella, Jr.

Health Initiatives by Marc Meredith, covering the topic of the possible return of paper towels to the restrooms (health pre-caution due to the H1N1 flu outbreak). It was decided to recommend to the senior cabinet that a Life Cycle Analysis protocol should be applied for both this particular issue and all future purchases at Otis.

A brief presentation of new Water Filters now being used on the 2nd floor of Ahmanson Building was given, stressing the importance of Life Cycle Analysis needed before installing this filter or another brand campus-wide.

Richard M. Shelton discussed briefly the idea of an Otis Beach Party for all students/faculty/staff to be scheduled for either Spring or Fall 2010.

A presentation by Otis student Devin Week followed, regarding his new book-recycling project, (taking used/discarded books and using them to create an entirely new object, such as furniture or floor tiles), and its implementation in local schools.

Cathy Chambers discussed ways to raise awareness about sustainability through a Blog, using it to:

- Reach out to obtain information about sustainable projects at Otis for use on the website.
- Obtain books for the library that cover the topic of sustainability.
- To raise awareness about a possible campus-wide, sustainability questionnaire.

Marc Meredith spoke about the ESC's recommendation to the Senior Cabinet to adopt a sustainability protocol, and to take into account the following issues of sustainability when making all decisions:

- Economy (financial impact)
- Environment (materials and their impacts)
- Social (impact on people and community)

Gwynne Keathley discussed:

- Her participation in the Sustainable Design Cohort, a group of interested faculty from other art and design colleges, organized by Debera Johnson at Pratt.
- The basis of the Designer's Accord meeting taking place in San Francisco. She will be attending this meeting as a representative of Otis.

Marc Meredith spoke briefly on the topic of sustainability grants for Otis.