

**Marquette University**  
**Task Force Meeting Minutes**

Task Force Meeting Minutes: April 16, 2009  
3:30 – 4:30 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room 707 Building

**Members:**

*Present:* Mr. Arthur Scheuber, Mr. Henry Thomas, Dr. David E. Clark, Mr. Jay Kutka, Mr. Michael Whittow, Mr. Andrew Seifert

*Excused:* Mr. Todd Vicker, Ms. Erin Lazzar

*Absent:* Dr. Christopher L. Miller, Dr. William Cullinan

**Proceedings:**

Mr. Scheuber called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday April 16, 2009.

Mr. Whittow began the meeting by giving an update of presentations he has recently done on Sustainability at Marquette. Mr. Whittow has met with IT Services, Office of Marketing and Communication, University Advancement, and MUSG Senate. Mr. Whittow explained that by giving this presentation to various groups, people are beginning to recognize sustainability initiatives and that the University is taking sustainability seriously. The presentation takes into account the three-legged stool philosophy of environment, social, and economic and that we are not simply looking at the environmental side but are including each segment. It also gives several examples of current Marquette initiatives and plans for the future. Mr. Whittow has also begun doing presentations with Dr. Toby Peters creating awareness on Sustainability and the work of the Renewal Task Force. They have met with faculty from the Diederich College of Communication, academic business managers, MUSG senate and a joint COA/COS luncheon.

Mr. Whittow then went on to give a brief overview of some current student class projects. These include Dr. Korb's ARSC 11 recycling and behavioral change projects along with the CEEN 152 class on different ways to make the AMU more sustainable. He also mentioned that the Board of Trustee Committee on Administration and Public Affairs would like to receive updates on sustainability initiatives and continue to hear from the students. Mr. Scheuber added that people are beginning to pay more attention to sustainability and are starting to understand its importance. An example given was how the CEO of KI wants to be added to the list his son's company, Stone Creek Coffee, is on that receives sustainability updates from the university.

For the benefit of new members, an explanation of the Working Groups was given along with an update of each working group. The Natural Resources and Utilities group is looking at photovoltaic panels as a means of electricity, the Recycling working group is looking at outdoor recycling on campus and opportunities for behavioral change (having people want to recycle), the Supplier group is learning about the initiatives of our suppliers and how they are pushing sustainable practices at Marquette, and the New Buildings working group is acting as an information hub for the new buildings and will soon look at future plans at Marquette and see how they can contribute further.

One subject that arose was the switch from silverware in the AMU to plastic utensils. This is often done when there is a malfunction with a dishwasher and the employees are unable to clean the silverware. Once this problem is resolved, silverware will be reintroduced.

Mr. Whittow then gave examples of the increasing student involvement on campus. Examples include MUSG senators wanting to sit down and talk to the Sustainability Officer and offer help, faculty offering potential student projects and letting him know what they are doing to foster sustainability, continued collaboration with SEAC, the Environmental Law Society sitting down to offer suggestions and potential help in the future, the approval and creation of the new Slow Food chapter on campus, and staff members sitting down to offer help and provide suggestions for possible initiatives. Mr. Scheuber then asked Mr. Clark what the best way to get faculty to identify their efforts so we can advertise them later. Mr. Clark suggested working with the deans and seeing if they can ask their faculty for a list. Academic Senate will also be contacted to see how they can spread the word. It was mentioned that we want to act as the spark while students, faculty, and staff act as the engine that powers sustainability on campus.

Mr. Whittow gave an update of Earth Week and some of the events taking place during the week of April 20<sup>th</sup>. Events include: a supplier panel with Sodexo, Stone Creek Coffee, Follett, and Mr. Whittow, a faculty panel including Dr. Susanne Foster, Professor Alan Madry, Dr. Jame Schaefer, and Dr. McGee Young, setting up easels similar to those utilized during Mission Week, advertise a new dedicated email address for sustainability, and launch the sustainability website. We want to make sure people know it is Earth Week. One way to advertise the launch of the new website could be to add “bumper stickers” to each poster on launch day. Other events during the week include the Child Care Center’s Week of the Child and the OfficeMax supply swap being held in the AMU.

The group continued with a discussion of creating a revolving loan fund dedicating to funding or partially funding campus sustainability initiatives. This fund would offer low interest loans to students, faculty, and staff who have a project that will improve environmental conditions or reduce operating costs in an environmentally friendly way. Would there be problem with such a fund? One issue is identifying where the seed money comes from. Mr. Kutka will talk to Mr. John Hansen about feasibility and restrictions associated with the fund.

Mr. Whittow gave an update on the Native Tree project and explained that we are waiting for leaves on the trees to bloom again in order for the students and faculty involved to properly identify which species are already on campus. Mr. Thomas mentioned that extensive research went into identifying possible native trees that would populate the median. Native trees offer increased resilience because they have already adapted to this climate and require less irrigation.

The group then discussed the application of LED lights on campus. A pilot project was considered for Parking Structure 2, however, after determining the payback period versus the life of the fixture, it was concluded that pilot project should be put on hold. LED lights do offer a great light source but the initial cost is currently too high; this will change once the technology has adapted and becomes more universally accepted. A one-for-one replacement is not a viable option. LED lighting is usually used when doing a new build or complete renovation. LED lights are also a good option in hard to reach locations that require a cherry picker to reach them (like those in Lot R).

Mr. Whittow went on to identify the explosion of bike usage on campus. Certain problems exist such as students chaining them to any immobile object that’s close. To combat this, additional bike racks are being added with the addition of a bike corral in Parking Structure 2. Mr. Scheuber mentioned that we need student assistance to encourage other students to use the bike racks instead of other immobile objects. He also mentioned that a group led by Mr. Steve Duffy, is looking at transportation on South Campus and are looking at locations for additional bike racks.

The meeting continued with a discussion of Johnson Control's Solutions Navigator program. This program could be used to develop a game plan for future sustainability endeavors. One question raised was whether or not this would be an ongoing program, would there be additional costs associated with this? Another problem is that if it is a onetime deal, due to the speed of student turnover and MUSG senate turnover, projects may be unrealized while they are here and priorities may change from generation to generation. One suggestion was that we contact other institutions who have used this program to answer our questions. Another thought was that this program is meant for jump starting sustainability initiatives for an organization. Some members believe that the University is past this step and is now starting to see increased participation throughout campus. The use of Solutions Navigator will be revisited in the future.

The next meeting will be scheduled for November 2009 after the working groups have met for that month.

With no further business, the Sustainability Task Force meeting concluded at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Andrew Seifert