

October 2011 Working Group Minutes

General updates:

- As previous faculty members' terms were finished, each working group received new faculty members.
- A background of Marquette's sustainability program was given in each working group to bring new members up to speed. To learn more about the sustainability program please visit www.Marquette.edu/sustainability.

Natural Resources Working Group: October 24, 2011

Members present: Mr. Mike Jahner, Dr. Kevin Siebenlist, Dr. Joshua Knox, Dr. James Anderson, Mr. Mike Whittow and Mr. Andrew Seifert.

Members Absent: Ms. Kimberly Campbell.

Updates

- There are no updates at this time. The beginning of the meeting involved introductions to accommodate new members.

Brainstorming possible projects

- Question: What is Facilities Services greatest need for the working group?
 - Marquette already builds 100 year buildings and runs the most efficient HVAC systems.
 - What Facilities Services could use is disseminating information about all the projects currently underway while bringing in additional project suggestions.
 - The thinking is to have people not necessarily involved in facility problems look at them from a different perspective.
- Relook at installing a solar system on campus. Marquette is only eligible for one solar grant per year from Focus on Energy and last year's was used for installing solar panels on Engineering Hall (formerly the Discovery Learning Complex).
- Address transportation on campus for both the campus fleet as well as commuters.
 - The thinking is to find alternative transportation options and incentives beyond single occupancy vehicles and conventional gasoline vehicles.
 - Look at improving carpooling program.
 - Look at getting more commuters to bike to campus and/or use public transportation.
 - An example of incentivizing alternative commuting could include pretax dollars to fix bikes, say \$10 per month.
 - Create and share different commuting models/possibilities for commuting to campus besides a car.
- Address water use on campus: "we currently use water as a right, not as a gift. We must be mindful of water use."

- Looks at ways to divert or reuse water, such as rain water.
- Look at alternative appliances such as chemical toilets.
 - These toilets capture methane for energy use.

Round Table Discussion

- Behavior Change Idea: Marquette is a place to establish culture rather than conform to it. Use this to our advantage in growing a culture of sustainability and good stewardship.

New Buildings Working Group: October 14, 2011

Members present: Ms. Katherine Sanford, Dr. Mark Federle, Dr. Sheikh Iqbal Ahamed, Dr. William Donaldson, Mr. Mike Whittow and Mr. Andrew Seifert.

Members Absent: Mr. Charles Haas.

Updates

- There are no updates at this time. The beginning of the meeting involved introductions to accommodate new members.

Brainstorm possible projects for when new buildings are not being built

- Look at using technology to reduce the university's resource use. Some ideas brought up include:
 - Look at using occupancy sensors in buildings.
 - Lower temperatures minimally on weekends when buildings aren't in use.
- Look at selecting a particular building and see what sorts of projects could be done in that building.
- Look at behavioral change opportunities.

Round Table Discussion

- Printing copies is consuming a great deal of paper in some academic departments. Making copies from books.
 - D2L should be used as the delivery tool rather than making physical copies.
 - One reason to support copies is that at times only certain sections or chapters are used from a given text. Since the entire book is not used, students can save by not needing to purchase the full text.
 - One solution could be to send PDFs instead. 75% of students in certain colleges are required to have a laptop.

Recycling Working Group: October 25, 2011

Members present: Mr. Jerry Kohn, Ms. Taylor Behnke, Dr. Barbara Kren, Mr. Michael Cosgrove, Mr. Mike Whittow and Mr. Andrew Seifert.

Members absent: Dr. Jane Peterson.

Updates

- There are no updates at this time. The beginning of the meeting involved introductions to accommodate new members.

Current recycling practices at Marquette University

- We are currently only measuring the waste stream and recycling streams Veolia (our waste hauling provider) provides us. These are calculated by weighing truckloads.
 - This means we currently do not include recycled furniture weights, donated goods, electronic waste (ewaste), etc.
 - Marquette is currently between a 29% and 30% recycling rate.
- We previously made a recycling goal of 30% by July 2011. Our next goal was to reach a 50% recycling rate by 2015, or roughly 5% increase per year.
 - This may prove difficult because our month-to-month recycling statistics are bouncing below 30% rather than above 30%. This is a bad indicator for future increases in our recycling rate.
- Last year we purchased blue trash can tops and turned some outdoor trash receptacles into recycling ones. These recycling bins are doing OK, but the exterior bins are not the majority of campus trash.
- Most trash comes from inside buildings.
 - Residence halls are tough to gauge recycling because students may not sort out recyclables beforehand.
 - Students also tend to throw their garbage in the nearest trash bins in the residence hall's respective trash area.
 - Move-out is also tough for recycling because students generally just toss everything in the garbage. For certain items there may not be another place to put them or sort them.
 - Recycling totes on a per floor basis have been tried in the past with little success. People just use them as trash bins.
- Question: What does Facilities Services see as the biggest obstacle to recycling?
 - That it is up to the individual to recycle. Facilities Services provides the service and opportunity to recycle, it is up to the individual to actually practice recycling.
 - May need to provide educational resources such as a recycling brochure.
 - Update recycling posters around campus.
 - Add posters near copiers. People tend to read posters near copiers while waiting.
 - Could add signs encouraging sustainability practices around campus.

Brainstorm projects and initiatives

- Work on more efficient and better recycling during move-out.
 - Look to staff certain areas with volunteers.
 - Marquette staff are asked to help during move-in, but never move-out. They may be interested in helping during move-out as well.
 - Seek possible student volunteers as well. It may prove difficult to recruit student volunteers due to final exams.
 - In the future, possibly ask or have move-in volunteers volunteer for move-out as well.
 - Encourage donating goods rather than throwing them away.
- Create a move-in “needs list” so student know what they actually need vs. bringing most of their belongings with them to school.
 - This could be sent out with student acceptance letters.
 - Could be handed out during Freshman Preview.
 - Could also be sent in an email blast.

Supplier Working Group: October 17, 2011

Members present: Mr. Todd Vicker, Mr. Craig Meyer, Ms. Katherine Rakowski, Dr. Owen Goldin, Dr. Linda Menck, Dr. John McAdams, Mr. Chris Porterfield, Mr. Mike Whittow and Mr. Andrew Seifert.

Members Absent:

Updates

- There are no updates at this time. The beginning of the meeting involved introductions to accommodate new members.

General Discussions

- Marquette’s Purchasing Department has been involved in sustainability for years.
 - Purchasing has several inquiries during their Request for Proposals (RFP) process that are related to sustainability.
 - For example, if the suppliers are selling a commodity, are they effective in areas of environmental responsibility, packaging, logistics and generally good stewardship.
 - Purchasing conducts supplier reviews every 6 months to determine if current suppliers are simply playing lip service to their claims or are blatantly not meeting expectations. Purchasing can then swing the university’s business elsewhere.

Goals for the semester

- The Suppliers Working Group generally invites university suppliers to present to the group and share their sustainability initiatives as well as how they are helping the university be more sustainable. Some possible presentations include:
 - Copy paper distributor.
 - Sodexo.
 - Facilities Services to discuss Marquette's green cleaning initiatives.

Round Table Discussion

- Comment: Someone should look into online mailing or an option to unsubscribe to campus mailings and publications. This approach should have a low transaction cost and could help save university resources.