

## President's Sustainability Committee

Minutes

February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 1:00-2:30 pm

TILT 104

### 1. **Introductions** – 5 minutes

### 2. **STARS Update** – 15 minutes

- a) In December, Colorado State University submitted a preliminary STARS report to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) with a score of 86.77, which would qualify as the first Platinum score.
- b) Platinum level reports automatically trigger a third-party review of the submission.
- c) The third-party review flagged many items in the submission.
- d) CSU received the feedback from AASHE and had a few weeks to generate responses to their concerns.
- e) After much number crunching and revision, CSU resubmitted the STARS report to AASHE on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 with a preliminary score of 85.38.
- f) Tonie and Carol feel confident in the second submittal and will hear back from AASHE within a week or so.
- g) Many concerns from AASHE came from CSU's subtle misinterpretation of some questions but Carol, Tonie, and others have been working diligently with AASHE representatives to understand how to submit most successfully.
- h) Once Carol and Tonie hear back from AASHE with the confirmed new score, an email will be sent out to the PSC.
- i) A PR campaign is already in the works and the sustainability at CSU infographic will be updated.
- j) The score will last for 3 years but AASHE is already developing another version STARS so CSU may resubmit in the new version.

### 3. **Earth Week** – 20 minutes

- a) Below is a list of Earth Week events that have been confirmed with Tonie, so far.

#### **Monday, April 20:**

#### **Tuesday, April 21:**

#### **Wednesday, April 22:**

- 10am to 2pm: Earth Day Fair in the LSC Sculpture Garden (West side of LSC)
- 2pm-7:30pm: SoGES Public Land GCRT Symposium (LSC Greyrock Room)
- 2pm: Tree Campus USA Tree Planting Ceremony (Danforth Chapel)

#### **Thursday, April 23:**

- SoGES Public Land GCRT Symposium (LSC Rooms 228-230)
- 1pm-3pm: Earth, Sun, and Fire Tour (solar array, composter, and biomass boiler on Foothills Campus)
- 5:30pm: Women, Population, and Environment with SoGES Environmental Justice GCRT panel discussion (TBD)

#### **Friday, April 24**

- 1pm-3pm: Compost Giveaway and Ewaste Collection

- TBD: SoGES Biodiversity Working Group Workshop “Pollinator Landscaping for Urban Sustainability” (TBD)

### **Saturday, April 25**

- 8am-4pm: CSUnity

Other potential events:

The Student Sustainability Center will host a sustainability job fair on either the 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>.

- b) Tonie’s office will soon place holds on the University calendar for these events.
- c) Her office will also create marking material with a list of Earth Week events.
- d) Send all event details to Tonie to be included in the marketing material.
- e) The PSC has formed a sub-committee to organize all of the logistics for Earth Week. Let Tonie or Becca know if you are interested in serving on the Earth Week subcommittee.

#### **4. RRCC Sustainability Celebration – 10 minutes**

- a) Carol shared a call for speakers and exhibitors for Red Rocks Community College for their Sustainability celebration, which will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- b) A major focus of the celebration is STEM education.
- c) Becca will distribute more information about the event.

#### **5. Sustainability Curriculum Development Incentive for Faculty – 10 minutes**

- a) As part of STARS, CSU developed a program in which faculty members could either build a new course focused on sustainability or revise their course structure to infuse more sustainability into it.
- b) Faculty members were rewarded with a mini-grant to attend the AASHE conference in Portland in October of 2014.
- c) Three faculty members participated in the program last year. Two of them went to the AASHE conference and another went to a conference related to their discipline.
- d) The faculty members shared that the program was good but good be better and more attractive to others.
- e) Currently, three ideas to improve the program are to buy out a faculty member for ~\$6,000, to continue to send faculty members to conferences, or to host a sustainability curriculum workshop with Heather Hackman.
- f) Heather Hackman hosted a workshop about how sustainability can successfully integrate into higher education several months ago and while heavily attended, most attendees were graduate students and staff members, not faculty.
- g) Bringing the workshop to campus would allow for a broader reach than just a few faculty members.
- h) Tonie has a follow-up meeting to determine how much it would cost to bring Heather to campus.
- i) If you have other ideas of how to better engage faculty members in a revision of their course to include more sustainability, please let Tonie know.

#### **6. Updates from Members – 30 minutes**

**Tony Rappe** – Tony is teaching an “in-service” style class for K-12 Chemistry teachers to learn how to most effectively teach the subject.

**Jake Drenth** – The bike repair shop in the Laurel Village Pavilion is fully operational. Jake is looking to better advertise the program to students.

**Doug Max** – The Stadium project is still developing and the team is looking into budget and project scope details. The project will be a 20 month build and will be functional by the 2017 football season.

**Jesse Parker** – The College of Engineering just finished a lighting upgrade project in AECOM on the Foothills Campus. They are now working to develop better way finding signage for the Scott building.

**Andrew Oringer** – As part of an ASCSU initiative, Drive Electric Northern Colorado will be hosting a test-drive event on March 4<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:00 around the LSC plaza. This is also the same day as the Housing waste audit and the Housing fair so traffic on the plaza should be very high. Also, ASCSU just hired an alternative transportation manager who will be developing better strategies to engage students about parking habits on campus.

**Marcus Lively** – The Solar Energy Club is currently performing a remote solar assessment of Pingree Park via GIS.

**Jacob Kimicek** – The Student Sustainability Committee just submitted a new resolution to ASCSU. The resolution requests that rental properties include an in depth energy efficiency statement on all advertisements and marketing material. This resolution might come to the PSC for support.

**Stacey Baumgarn** – Stacey is working on collecting sustainability data for ClimateWise, which is the City's Sustainability program. CSU has been a ClimateWise partner since the program's inception and CSU is currently a platinum level partner.

**Peter Backlund** – SoGES will host a movie and panel discussion next Tuesday at 6:30 pm in BSB 131. The movie will be "Antarctica: A Year on Ice" and the panel includes Diana Wall.

**Aaron Fodge** – A new commuter bus service, called the "Bustang", will begin this spring. The bus will go from Fort Collins to Denver and will make only one stop in Loveland. The bus will run 6 times each day and will begin early in the morning and end late at night, Monday through Friday only. The bus has a small fee to ride and will end its route at Union Station in Denver.

Aaron will be speaking at a Drive Electric Northern Colorado press conference about electric vehicle charging stations.

Parking and Transportation Services is applying for several federal grants to go towards intersection improvements. They recently won a Ripple Effect grant for lunchtime bike rides for women. Hopefully, the rides will increase the women's confidence.

Aaron has been working with the City for the Elizabeth Corridor Plan to improve the area along Elizabeth for cars, pedestrians and bicycles.

Aaron will soon be sending a mode split survey to the campus within a week or so. This survey will assess how far people travel to come to campus and will be sent every February.

**Jocelyn Hittle** – The National Western Center Master Plan is set to be adopted early next month. She and her planning team are starting to identify solar system opportunities on the sites of the new buildings. She has many opportunities for student research or design projects so let her know

if you are interested. Also, she and the Denver Initiatives team are in early conversations with DIA about the Corridor of Opportunity, which is in line with the perspective of the National Western Center. She will come back to the PSC with a planning session about this project.

**Carol Dollard** – Facilities is reviewing the utility infrastructure needed to support the upcoming construction projects on campus. After being awarded a grant, solar systems are being installed on the roofs of the Rec Center, Edwards, Corbett, and Braiden. The Braiden panels are currently operational and producing while others are still being installed.

**Tonie Miyamoto** – A Medical Center will soon be constructed on the corner of College and Prospect. The Medical Center is a partnership between CSU, UC Health, Columbine Health, and PVH. Also, the Pavilion has submitted for a Platinum LEED score, after questions were clarified.

**Next meeting:** Monday, **March 9<sup>th</sup>**, 1-2:30 pm, TILT 104