**C**ampus
**E**nvironmental
**S**ustainability
**T**eam

**Minutes**
March 23, 2011, 1:00 – 2:30Administrative Building III, Room 301

**Attendance**Lindsay Batchelor, Jack Colby, Tracy Dixon, Darren Fallis, Paul McConocha, Brian O’Sullivan, Bill Winner, Lisa Maune, Mahomet Accilien, Cameron Smith, Liz Bowen, Sarah Ketchem, David Dean, Lisa Johnson, Laura Brown, Dick Bernhard

**Welcome and Introductions** – Bill

Campus Sustainability Strategic Plan (SSP) has been presented to various town hall meetings, faculty, staff, and will be taken a second Board of Trustees committee. We are at the end of the process for approving the SSP, and about to figure out what work needs to be done and how to implement the tactics. The SSP is the broadest of the efforts, and we deal with the tactics everyday, even though we do not have a tactical plan yet. The Sustainability Office has played a major role coordinating the SSP and campus input.

Jack - We are pleased with how the role out is going and we are very close to implementation and ready to move from planning to doing.

Tracy - Many working groups started listing tactics that defined the strategies. Now we need to unfold the strategies and revisit the tactics. For some, we have been implementing all along.

Bill - We are going to return to the 8 existing working groups and begin creating tactics. Some groups will have turnover and new members to bring new ideas to the table. The working group chairs will be the lead role in bringing all of these people together.

**Working Group Chair Updates on Tactic Status** – Jack

There are many thoughts to tackle within each working group. Let’s encourage the chairs to get people pumped back up. We should access what has been done and what strategies are currently in place to see what needs to be tackled and how to lay out the tactics. We could have either 1 year tactics or multi-year tactics for example. We should not get caught up in having all of the answers now, but make what progress we can and adjust each year. Use working group discussion to capture ideas and then sort them out as far as what’s the most important. Somewhere, it is someone’s job at the university to implement these tactics and we need to figure out where each falls. The biggest success will come when we mesh what the staff is doing with what is coming out of the working groups. We should have some flexibility with implementation but get things roughed out by the end of the semester to know what needs to be picked up in the fall. Some tactics get involved in all kinds of metrics, and we should establish some basic metric guidelines and decide what we want to use and capture. As we are doing the tactical activities next year, it should feed right into the annual sustainability reporting process.

*Working Group Chair Updates:*

Lisa Johnson- how do we capture what we are already implementing-such as the Lake Raleigh Management Plan?

Response -

* Decide what would be a realistic expectation for the project in the next year
* Then develop a rough description for years 2-4, etc.
* This is like writing proposals for research that was already done
* This could be information to be include in this year’s annual report
* Start with brainstorming tactics for some refreshing. Group hasn’t been talking as much
* Will have to pull in other campus resources for Urban forestry plan for example
* Will be some work for the leaders to meet with people to get tactics started

Lisa Maune-

* Like the idea of stirring up new membership
* W ill go ahead and fill out tactical spreadsheet as starting point and present to working group for feedback
* Will probably have two meetings in April

Sarah Ketchum-

* Met with Tracy about keeping purchasing and waste together because of lots of ties
* Excited about bringing in new membership, especially students to implement their ideas and bring real results
* Meeting will be set up for April

Paul McConocha-

* First meeting held last week and was moved from the steam plant to the Court of North Carolina
* Time to download and catch everyone up regarding activities
* Introduced 50 or so tactical ideas and an assignment to review them
* Would like to offer idea- we have 10 fellows working on campus and 4 participating on CEST- encourage the other 6 to sign up for a working group and get involved (there was general agreement for this among the group)

Brian O’Sullivan -

* Working group needs renewal/recharging
* Skepticism towards tactics because of items outside of the working group’s control (student cap, parking fees, etc)
* Have not had much contact with fleet services recently- need to get Scott Jennings involved

Question -

* Some things on list will need funds to move forward- may need an outside consultant – how handle?

Response -

* Identify what we need - Bill and Jack can assist with how that might happen

*Other updates:*

Jack- received stimulus funds for an energy manager and two analysts. There are fairly rigorous job requirements and specific experience

Bill- Have formed academic and research working group that has met 4 or 5 times and formed recommendations for the SSP. The mission of the university is academic and research and is stated as such in the SSP. Some working group members were unhappy about how the academics and research pieces were displayed in the SSP. This academic/research team is different from other working groups—engages 40,000 people who are interested in this and have this first and foremost on their mind. These people are not employed by facilities and so we are imposing on them to volunteer time for implementation of the SSP. We do not have metrics for measuring sustainability of research projects. We don’t agree academically about what is sustainability (e.g. - some think sustainability is all about ethanol biofuels and others would disagree). How can we quantitatively access the content of sustainability in courses and academia? The metrics for sustainability for academics can be measured in course credit and in expenditures for research. Neither of these is straightforward or simple. Possibly look at how much course content is related to each working group area to determine sustainability content in curriculum. What is important is training students to be lifelong learners of sustainability and have jobs related to sustainability. We want students to not only know this information but use this information in professional leadership roles and move our society forward in thinking about sustainability. No university that we know of actually has a tactic for doing this.

Idea- Go to the provost and say that we need to be more quantitative with understanding the role of sustainability in academics and research programs. Provost could charge associate deans to conduct an analysis of credit hours taught in sustainability. We will not tell them how to do this, but instead they would determine their own definition of sustainability and an approach to report sustainability-related credit hours. They could report what fraction of each course is related to sustainability. We would then have a list of all courses, know what fraction of course is related to sustainability, and how many students take that course and we can calculate the number of sustainable credit hours students enroll in at NC State. We could use a similar technique with research endeavors. Just one way to think about how to move forward in accessing sustainability in academic/research area

Comments -

* This will need to be annual assessment to begin to see a trajectory of academic credits and research expenditures in sustainability and determine whether this is increasing or decreasing
* Danger with associate deans defining sustainability themselves and quality of feedback
* How many people hours is this?
* Could we have professors report what percentage of the class is sustainability when proposing a course?
* Took 4 years to revise Environmental Sciences academic program
* Takes 2-3 years to get course approved- no idea how long to get course-proposal process approved
* This group could brainstorm more how to track this
* What would the incentive for the associate deans and faculty to collect this data?
* Could be a good educational opportunity for those involved
* Finding what the value of doing this is to each college is really important to the effort they put in
* Could this play in to what classes we keep versus cut?
* Could we be a support role for this process?
* Understanding what each different definition of sustainability is and tie definition with metrics is important
* Maybe look at degrees instead of courses- how many students graduated with that “sustainable” degree
* Would they have to figure out and analyze which courses are involved in the degrees?
* People in deans’ offices don’t know what is happening in courses
* How could individuals (professors, students) put in more for it to be about sustainability
* This tactic will move in a different pace and scale as other tactics
* We want to do it right, not just do it to do something
* Maybe some prize or incentive for putting forth this effort will be key
* Have a leaf decal by the courses in the catalog for the courses that are related to sustainability
* What’s the next step for academic/research team and new members?
* Have a few department heads on the committee? They probably won’t have time

**Earthwise awards update** – Lindsay

* Nomination deadline is Monday and only 4 nominations so far (2 staff, 2 students)
* Try to nominate someone for an award- definitely looking for faculty nominations
* We would like to have new nominees- past winners are on Earthwise award website.
* CEST body will vote from April 4th-8th- will send link to a site will all nominees
* Students are very last minute and may come in late
* Awards ceremony will be at CEST meeting on April 25th
* Request to Chancellor or designee to present awards
* Coca Cola will sponsor Earthwise awards (cash rewards and reception)

**Upcoming campus events** – David

* An awareness campaign with 5% goal for energy reduction- Change Your State
* Hit the Switch stickers will be going around campus on Sat. March 26th during Service Raleigh- stickers will not peel paint or wallpaper from walls, but will still stick
* Need one more staff leader to help with this from about 8:30am – 1:00pm
* Other events: Rubbage Ride, Empower Film Series- Dean of College of Education will host panel discussion, 2nd Annual EnviroVision Competition with RecycleMania focus, Reusable Regatta, Local cooking demonstration, Earth Day on the brickyard ([www.ncsu.edu/earthday](http://www.ncsu.edu/earthday)), E-waste collection event that is open to the public. All events online here: [www.ncsu.edu/earthday](http://www.ncsu.edu/earthday)
* Next step might be an iphone app to track the good deeds that people are doing around campus
* First meeting about Electric vehicles and charging stations on campus last week (Jack)