

UA Sustainability Committee June 24, 2009 Meeting

Present: Fred Cowett, Jeannine Crouse, Frank DiSalvo, Fil Eden, Marty Hatch, Dan Roth

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Fil Eden will write a draft of a letter to the Executive Committee of the UA requesting the Executive Committee to take action over the summer on the Resolution in Support of a Revolving Loan Fund to Promote Energy Efficiency at Cornell**
 - **Dan Roth will draft a resolution regarding sustainability on campus and the strategic planning process.**
 - **The next committee meeting is scheduled for Friday July 17th at 12 noon.**
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AGENDA:

I. Opening Round

II. Discussion of the Resolution in Support of a Revolving Loan Fund to Promote Energy Efficiency at Cornell

- The resolution can be submitted to the Executive Committee of the US when the UA is not meeting for forwarding to President Skorton.
 - A draft of a letter requesting the Executive Committee to take action on the resolution over the summer will be written by Fil Eden.
 - The letter will also be sent to Susan Murphy, Vice President for Student and Academic Services.
- Review of the resolution:
 - “Whereas the USC has made the UA aware of solutions that other Universities have found to overcome these bureaucratic obstacles” – “bureaucratic” will be deleted.
 - “... loans to any department on campus” – “or unit” inserted after department.
 - “... costs of the patron department” – “or unit” inserted after department.
 - “This fund is to be funded in whatever manner the University sees fit ...” – the remainder of the clause deleted after “sees fit.”
- The resolution as amended is agreed to by the committee.
- A similar resolution was voted on and passed by the UA three years ago.
- Perhaps some funding for the resolution can come from alumni contributions; per Dean Koyanagi, there is an alumni network interested in sustainability activities.

III. Discussion of sustainability goals that can be presented at an ad hoc faculty group meeting with President Skorton the last week of July

- A perception exists with the departure of Dean Koyanagi, the reassignment of Steve Golding, and the failure thus far to restaff those positions that Cornell’s interest in sustainability is declining.
- A Faculty Senate resolution was passed to discuss this perception with President Skorton.
 - This discussion will take place at a meeting on July 24th.
- Potential topics for discussion:
 - Sustainability not currently in initial discussions with architects hired to design campus buildings.
 - Funding for maintenance and management should be included in budget for new buildings instead of incurring added debt to the detriment of teaching and research.
 - Strict standards for energy efficiency.

IV. Discussion of the current status of Cornell's Advancing Sustainability Action Plan (ASAP) and the role the USC can play in relation to those activities

- Does a leadership vacuum exist with respect to sustainability?
 - No clear succession with the departures of Golding and Koyanagi.
 - Reports concerning sustainability issues will be made directly to the President's office in the interim while the University figures out its strategic reorganization.
- The committee could say something with respect to this leadership vacuum and uncertainty on the University's efforts on behalf of sustainability.
 - Something that builds on successes and addresses strategic planning.
 - How does sustainability fit into the strategic planning process?
 - Should there be a sustainability czar, a chief sustainability officer, in Day Hall?
- Dan Roth will draft a resolution and circulate it to the committee for comments in advance of the committee's next meeting.

V. Closing Round

- The next committee meeting is scheduled for Friday July 17th at 12 noon.