Sustainability Meeting 10-9-14

Attendance: Jane Camarillo, Scott Logan, Lance Hourany, SaFa Toma, Alice Balridge, Steve Woolpert, Nick Kennen, Joe Kehoe, Brian Foley, Judith White, Aaron Sachs, Jim Sciuto, Matt Carroll, Brother Michael Murphy, Gemma Niermann, Marie Pagliarni, Julie Welch, Alyssa Horning (CILSA), Morgan Faulkner (ASSMC), Kelly Kellner, Cody Carefoot

Agenda: Introductions

Finalize job description for Sustainability Coordinator

Sub Committee Updates

Plan Campus Sustainability Day- Oct 22

The Sustainability Coordinator job description was discussed and clarified. This position will be responsible for projects, outreach and education, as well as be the communication go-to for all the committee members to ensure all projects are in order and moving forward. Julie stressed that this person needs to follow through and act by keeping things moving through departments and members. Also, the individual will be the face of the committee and programs. The initial description of the coordinator will evolve as the committee gets a better idea of what is needed and the various directions we go. This will be a developing job where the person may be with the committee for three to five years and will not only teach community, but also committee.

Jane, Joe, and Scott did have a chance to meet about an energy manager, the benefits of an additional position. A Consultant may also be a possibility for this position, especially in the initial stage. Both positions are extremely important, filling different needs. The committee voted unanimously on proceeding with the sustainability coordinator position. The description will go to HR for approval and a selection committee will be picked to evaluate resumes and conduct interviews.

Sub-committee status updates were as follows:

Operations: Scott has filled out the paperwork for the free “Energy Audit” and the contract is in process. This audit will focus on HVAC (Heating, ventilation, air conditioning) and light control systems. Joe has been working on water conservation and found Banyan Consultants. These consultants come out to see what is in place now and develop a system that can be used specifically for Saint Mary’s. This type of Consultant does not get an initial payment, but, get paid through our savings in water. Maria posed a question to Joe about getting an energy consultant because many halls throughout campus are on all the time and wasting energy. Unfortunately, they would like to do the audit before finding someone to help us with long-term solutions. Joe and Scott will follow-up with Maria about short-term solutions. Scott was happy to report to the committee that he and SaFa had a meeting with Diablo Recycling, who gave them our current recycle/trash tonnage. Saint Mary’s has 76.19 tons of recycling and diverted 47.66% of recycling from landfill in the last year. More recycling totes will be rolling on to campus Tuesday, October 14 to help support Ellen’s new recycling campaign. In regards to recycling, Julie asked the committee if they would like to
support the nationwide Recyclemania challenge once again. All were in favor to support and opted to do a benchmark challenge instead of a competition with other campuses in the nation. Julie also wanted to ask about the possibility of a composter on campus, which Joe has been working on. Food waste is one of the biggest and heaviest recycling issues we have, thus Joe found a food dryer called the Hungry Giant. This piece of equipment would dry the food and grind it up, but it would only take food. Many liked this idea, but want to know the return on investment which Joe is working on. One of these machines is being installed at a military base that he will check out and report back.

**Academics:** Three goals for this year those include teaching focus, increasing research, and determining what sustainable designation means for students. In regards to the teaching focus, they would like to have more workshops because there was a lot of positive feedback that came back from the first. Also, with the sustainable courses there is a lack of community engagement that needs to be added into them. More planning is needed for future courses so that all three E’s are present. But want to make sure all the courses are on our website, need to follow up with Brian. For more research Alice said they want to put together a speaker series. The committee needs to figure out how exactly the sustainable certificate will look and what it means for students in general.

**Co-curricular:** Goals for this year are to include sustainability as a topic for ambassadors during their tours as well as making sure the green living community get back up and running. Steve wanted to announce that with the new strategic plan there will be 6 headings and 2 that involve the committee (Academic Profile & Advancing the Mission). We will need to have committee members prioritize the goals for the next two years by the end of the semester. The committee members that are appointed to do so need to reflect on our action plan and know that in two years we will re-submit our data to STARS. Carol will update the action plan for the committee members and re-send it to everyone.

For campus sustainability day (October 22nd), Nick and Alyssa suggested having tables in DLS/Library quad and free swag to give to students in order to raise awareness. Some ideas that were brought up were to get a nursery to give away plants, have games, and have Diablo recycling to come out to teach or talk about what they are doing for Saint Mary’s. Steve noted that there will be a keynote broadcast by the sponsoring organization that we are registered to show at 11am, if committee members could meet to watch that would be nice. Also, Ken Worthy is going to show a sustainable movie and discussion during community time, but needs a room. Unfortunately, he needs the room (hopefully Hagerty) and some publicity. Melissa had an idea to have a sustainable move out that would promote / allow students to not only clean out their rooms before midterm break, but be good publicity for recycling/waste. Julie also said, handing out blue bags would also be a good way for students to recycle more and create more awareness. Nick, Alyssa, and Melissa will report back with tables and events in the quad for that day.

**There will be no meeting during Midterm break, the next meeting will be November 6th.**