CACES Meeting Notes – March 31, 2014

Attendees: Benjamin Silver, Daniele Sissons, Tyson Kemper, Joe Cao, Warren Gold, Tony Guerrero, David Edwards, Robert Turner, Kelly Snyder, Student Garden Committee Report (Erika Whitton: note taker)

*****************************************************************************

I. Intro – Group updates/items to discuss?

A. Crows?
   1. Warren: Things still being discussed
   2. Results are trickling in
   3. Focus had to be moved to issues other than crows; e.g.: there was a sewage spill to deal with due to heavy rains
   4. Robert: Last quarter this issue was tackled differently
   5. Last quarter reduced sampling and instead focused on different places within wetlands
   6. Catch basins studied/measured, and these had variations
   7. The petri dish samples have been diluted
   8. The diluted method of sampling is posing a challenge
   9. This quarter they are going to do different dilutions

II. Ben – Sustainability Updates:

A. Energy use and student housing
   1. Has been difficult obtaining data
   2. Rob: discussed Master’s Program study regarding: building efficiency
   3. It’s difficult to get people involved in these studies: rates people pay do not correlate to what they use
   4. Benjamin wants to give HFS good data describing energy use
   5. Also wants to provide information to Housing & Food Services
   6. Q: Has Benjamin met with RAs?
   7. A: Benjamin is planning to meet with RAs
   8. Tony: First portion of data is for input for Benjamin
   9. Problem with Husky Village is that retrofits aren’t great
   10. Tony: “Nothing really pencils out...”
11. Either rates are raised... but the cost is something that housing & food services cannot afford
12. **Rob**: sweaters...?
13. **Ben**: Had ugly sweater contest at one university; the heat temperatures were lowered; the idea seemed to be good and it worked...
14. **Tony**: Individual use is the problem: as individuals abuse temperature use
15. **Ben**: There are programmable thermostats in certain dorms; this helped to conserve a lot of energy. In terms of retrofit, this may be the least expensive route...
16. **Tony**: The visions of what the dorms should be like have changed slightly from the last Chancellor to the present one; final decisions pending...
17. Benjamin’s data is specific to the apartments
18. Housing uses two-thirds of the energy used on campus
19. **Daniele**: Perhaps use black-out curtains?
20. **Warren, Q**: Are there housing models where occupants are charged for usage?
21. **Ben, A**: It’s rare within higher learning to do this
22. **Ben**: Initial idea was to provide students with a mock utility bill; e.g.: UW Seattle usage is noted, a sort-of “wall of shame”
23. **Tony**: At Oberlin they illustrate usage
24. **Ben**: All the data he is acquiring is leading to a compartmentalized report for HFS
25. The role for CACES as it relates to all of this data is to make recommendations
26. **Ben**: The recommendations and the data can help guide the design of new dorm buildings as well
27. **Rob**: Perhaps an “Awareness Campaign” should come from CACES?
28. **Warren**: CACES can present information to the Chancellor
29. **Rob**: Oberlin has culture around sustainability, etc. Here, we are complacent; have not asked much of students, or ourselves: as we’ve been handed all the current facilities, etc.
30. **Ben**: ID Outliers

**B. Department of Commerce Solar Grant**
1. Tony put-in for this and got it
2. He is using the money for solar panels to go on certain buildings
3. UWB & CCC each gave 100k toward this effort

**C. Sustainability & Commuter Services**
1. They are re-doing the pamphlets
2. Commuter options
3. Working with UW Seattle on commute calculator
4. They really need student feedback for the sustainability work
5. Any amount of feedback given would be a good start
6. It would be better to have the students outreach to each other

**D. Green Lab Certification**
1. Benjamin did some re-certifications with a couple of departments
2. Benjamin and Rob had a discussion about these
3. Warren is also working on this
4. They are working out which labs are eligible for this certification
5. **Rob, Q.**: Have any changes been necessary to this certification?
6. **A**: No, they basically grade the labs

E. Benjamin has made a recommendation to the chancellor to sign the *UN Higher Education Sustainability Initiative Recommendation*
   1. If Chancellor amenable perhaps this could be turned into a symbolic signing event? With photos, etc. ...

F. **Website**
   1. Needs work
   2. Needs to be streamlined
   3. Benjamin has improved the way things are categorized
   4. The website will now be easier to navigate
   5. **Warren**: would be good to add housing energy-use to this site
   6. Two Items:
      a. UW Seattle Sustainability Dashboard is very well presented
      b. **Sustainability points-of-interest**
         1. These two tools bring all goals into one place
         2. **Q**: Can we get a framework for this website?
         3. **A**: The site is built and managed by one person

G. **STARS Program...**
   1. This program is a reporting tool and is wholly subjective
   2. A number of schools participate in this
   3. This program involves a long process of metrics gathering
   4. Relates to higher education sustainable development
   5. Perhaps this discussion should be pushed to another CACES meeting? When Kelly and others are there to discuss...

III. **Garden Committee Proposals**
   A. The garden committee had a conversation with the chancellor
      1. The Chancellor is excited about having a garden here
      2. The Chancellor offered a possible site...
   B. It is important for groups of people to work together
      1. Faculty
      2. Staff
      3. Students
         a. To ensure that they have a sustainable purpose and process
   C. The committee would like to investigate other locations/spaces
   D. A proposal needs to be created based on all issues herewith
   E. It would be a good idea to get CACES’ support to answer questions such as: liabilities
F. The more questions CACES can offer suggestions and answers with, the better
G. The garden committee would like to have direct communication with CACES
H. The garden committee would then create a proposal
I. General discussion on the garden
   1. **Warren, Q**: is a recommendation necessary?
   2. Warren does not see a problem with direct communication with anyone within CACES
   3. The garden committee can move this forward consulting broadly
   4. The students would like an official green light, and then they will provide a proposal
   5. **Warren**: CACES is an advisory body; they are here to make recommendations, but this does not have any real weight to it; ultimately the Chancellor’s Office that makes the decisions
   6. **Kelly**: The Chancellor would like a recommendation for CACES regarding the garden, etc.
   7. **Tony**
      a. Have a timeline/report
      b. Describe how CCC would be involved
      c. How much storage is necessary?
      d. Where would the storage area be?
      e. What is the projected budget?
      f. How will it be kept running (e.g.: during the summer months, etc.)
      g. Tony was initially excited about the triangle site the Chancellor had suggested for the garden...
   8. **Kelly**
      a. The pros/cons for each site need to be given
      b. The West portion of the triangle area belongs to UWB
      c. Discussions have been had with CCC
      d. To do for Garden Committee
         1. Create a task force
         2. Submit a proposal
   9. In the past there had been issues with the previous garden, and it is hoped that these issues can be overcome

IV. Earth Day
   A. There are a number of activities planned for Tuesday, April 22
      1. Tables will be arranged
      2. Game show prizes will be given
      3. Ian/Tyson will be doing some planting
      4. Workshops
      5. ... and a number of other activities throughout the day
      6. **Kelly, Q**: will CACES have a table?
      7. A: CACES should have a table
V. Single Use Plastic Water Bottles
   A. Is it better to have a blanket ban against these? (CCC has a blanket ban...?)
   B. Blanket bans have been moderately successful
   C. One university branded their own bottle
   D. Warren: Western Washington University is eliminating single-use water bottles from campus
      1. This began with a student vote three to four years ago
   E. Kelly: There are different groupings to take into account
      1. There are practical things that could be done
      2. What do we want to achieve?
   F. Tony: Earth Day topic
      1. Pros/cons water bottles
      2. They are currently trying to upgrade...; e.g.: had fountains installed