**Environmental Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes**

**DH 115, 09/01/15**

**Members Present:**

Kaya Foster

Garen Baghdasarian

Gina Garcia

Bruce Wyban

Stuart Cooley

Poliana Raymer

Sasha King

Rina Gabbay – student representative

**Members Excused:**

Tram Dang

Lesley Kawaguchi

1. **Call To Order:**
   1. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm.
2. **Public Comments:**
   1. None.
3. **Approval of Minutes:**
   1. Approved.
4. **Announcements/Updates/Action Items:**
   1. Next meeting –Sept 22nd

* Hold in CEUS
  1. Greening the curriculum
* Garen provided background to the Greening the Curriculum program – courses are flagged as sustainability-related or sustainability-focused. Flags are instructor-specific (ex: not all Geol 4 courses will be flagged as.
* Stuart suggested working with Center for Teaching Excellence in terms of providing resources for faculty who want to “green” their courses.
* Can we work to close equity gaps in environmental science/studies majors?
* Sasha suggested we combine this curriculum with urban planning and urban gardening.
* Garen suggested partnering with STEM Program.
* Kaya is working on a sustainability-related/-focused course list to be posted to the CEUS website (?).
* We will need to appeal to the chairs, since they give final approval of flags – attending the Dept Chair Committee meetings will help to support this.
* SMC working towards STARS rating?
* Can we work towards providing an actual flag in the course catalog for these courses?
* We should work towards defining standards for “sustainability-related” and “sustainability-focused” courses to make these terms more clear for faculty.
  1. Environmental audit
* The previous audit took place in 2005-2006 and was completed by 10-15 faculty + Genevieve Bertone (the audit served as her Master’s thesis). Likely unrealistic now.
* Is there funding for a professional group to conduct the audit?
* The Public Policy Institute has established a sustainability and environment theme – we should work with them to invite speakers.
  1. Water conservation
* Can we find funds to conduct a water usage audit?
* General water usage statistics – SMC uses 2.1 million gallons of water every two months. Bruce is advocating for water submeters to improve our understanding of water usage on campus.
  1. Environmental Studies and Environmental Science degrees
* Garen provided background and current issues – Environmental Science degree, in particular, is either unknown to students or they don’t find that the course requirements align with the Environmental Science degrees at 4-year schools.
* There’s a need to reevaluate these degrees to determine if they need to be adjusted to better align with Environmental Science degrees at four-years.
* The Environmental Science degree could be housed as an interdisciplinary degree under the Earth and Life Science departments.
* Potential for articulation.