

Prepared and approved by:  
The UW-La Crosse Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability  
December 2013

## UW-LA CROSSE SUSTAINABILITY

### Mission

The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse will provide students, faculty, staff and the community with the knowledge and skills to be environmentally responsible and involved citizens who understand and consider the global effects of their actions and the actions of others. The University will strive to use and implement sustainable best practices while minimizing its carbon footprint.

### Vision

The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse is a campus where:

- Education and research prepare students, faculty, staff and surrounding communities to engage in dialogue and positive action around sustainability.
- University leadership is committed to sustainability and will direct adequate resources toward the development of sustainability expertise and best practices on campus.
- Minimizing adverse social, economic, and environmental impacts of University operations is a priority.
- The understanding and concern for sustainability issues provide the foundation for dynamic campus collaboration and community for students, faculty and staff.

## Bylaws

### Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability (JCES)

Activities and actions of this committee shall be guided by ideas expressed in the Sustainability Mission and Vision Statement included at the end of these Bylaws.

#### A. Specific duties and responsibilities of the committee shall include:

1. Recommending actions that promote environmental sustainability including, but not limited to:  
Implementing the Talloires Declaration;  
Creating an institutional culture of sustainability;  
Educating for environmentally responsible citizenship;  
Fostering environmental literacy;  
Collaborating with stakeholders and promoting interdisciplinary approaches;  
Enhancing capacity of primary and secondary schools; and  
Broadening service nationally and internationally.
2. Promoting discussion among students and staff regarding environmental sustainability.
3. Evaluating proposals funded by the Environmental Sustainability Reserve ("Green Fund").  
Prior to reviewing proposals, JCES will invite the UW-L staff member who oversees the Green Fund account to briefly review the financial status of this account with the committee. For each proposal, JCES will use a two-step review process: The committee will first determine if the proposal meets criteria for Green Fund proposals as established by the UW-L Student Association. Proposals meeting these criteria will then be classified as highly recommended, recommended, or not recommended. All decisions made by JCES will be forwarded to the Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee (SUFAC) for further review. In addition to reviewing Green Fund proposals, JCES will also consider "mini-grant proposals" submitted to the Green Fund. JCES has sole responsibility to approve or not approve mini-grant proposals, i.e., they are not submitted to SUFAC or elsewhere for additional consideration.
4. Recommending actions concerning environmental sustainability to the Chancellor and university community.

#### B. Committee membership

Members of the committee shall include:

- Six students
  - Two members selected by the Students for Sustainability
  - Student Association Environmental Sustainability Director
  - University Center's Sustainability Coordinator
  - One member selected by the Residence Hall Advisory Council
  - One member selected by the Student AssociationShould one or more student vacancies develop, JCES may solicit new student members as needed.
- Five faculty or instructional academic staff
- Three non-instructional academic staff

- Two classified staff
- STARS Assessment Coordinator
- Manager of UW-La Crosse's Environmental Health, Occupational Safety and Sustainability Program

Other faculty, staff or students with significant sustainability responsibilities (for example, an academic sustainability coordinator, or a representative from the Office of Residence Life) may be formally invited to join the committee.

Faculty and staff shall serve three year terms. To promote committee continuity, it is recommended that faculty and staff appointments be staggered and that interested students be reappointed so that they may serve more than one year.

A simple majority of members in attendance will constitute a quorum.

#### C. Meeting time

Given the large number of committee members, JCES will meet 11:00 Friday mornings. An established meeting time will enable students, staff, and faculty to adjust their schedules in advance of applying for committee membership. Other special meeting times may be established, for example, to review Green Fund proposals.

D. Changes made in JCES bylaws will go into effect at the beginning of the next academic year.

E. The committee shall report directly to the Chancellor.

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### **UW-La Crosse Sustainability Mission Statement**

Prepared and approved by the UW-La Crosse Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability December 6, 2013. Also approved by the UW-L Student Association (December 11, 2013), Academic Staff Council (December 10, 2013), and Faculty Senate (February 13, 2014).

#### **Mission**

The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse will provide students, faculty, staff and the community with the knowledge and skills to be environmentally responsible and involved citizens who understand and consider the global effects of their actions and the actions of others. The University will strive to use and implement sustainable best practices while minimizing its carbon footprint.

#### **Vision**

The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse is a campus where:

- Education and research prepare students, faculty, staff and surrounding communities to engage in dialogue and positive action around sustainability.
- University leadership is committed to sustainability and will direct adequate resources toward the development of sustainability expertise and best practices on campus.
- Minimizing adverse social, economic, and environmental impacts of University operations is a priority.
- The understanding and concern for sustainability issues provide the foundation for dynamic campus collaboration and community for students, faculty and staff.

Bylaws update approved March 18, 2014 by JCES.

## **Committee Membership**

### **UW-L Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability**

**2013-2014**

#### **Faculty**

Emily Johnson

Nadia Carmosini

Maggie McDermott

Steven Tippins

Rob Tyser

#### **Academic Staff**

Victor Hill

Larry Slezniak

#### **Classified**

Isaiah Burish

John Pieper

#### **Students**

Ryan Sneath

Sara Torgerson

#### **Other members**

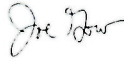
Alexis Merbach (Student Association Environmental Sustainability Director)

Libby Thorson (GA - University Center Sustainability Coordinator)

Dan Sweetman (Manager of UW-L Crosse's Environmental Health, Occupational Safety and Sustainability program)

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN  
LA CROSSE

MEMO TO: Steve Tippins, Chair  
Joint Environmental Sustainability Committee

FROM: Joe Gow   
Chancellor

DATE: October 17, 2013

SUBJECT: Committee Charge for 2013-2014 Academic Year

Thank you for sharing with me the committee's goals and objectives for the coming year. Please convey my gratitude to the committee members for their willingness to serve on the Joint Environmental Sustainability Committee.

The committee has identified the following objectives for the coming year:

1. Seeking support for a .5 time sustainability coordinator on campus
2. Seeking support to enroll in the STARS sustainability assessment program and create a .25 time STARS coordinator position
3. Establish a campus garden
4. Review and evaluate transportation issues
5. Green Fund proposal reviews.

While I fully endorse the committee's pursuit of these objectives, as you well know, the University's current financial situation is highly challenging. I hope you and the Committee members will be able to work with the appropriate administrators to find creative ways to reallocate existing resources toward some of the more ambitious goals you've articulated. If you'd ever like to discuss this in detail please don't hesitate to invite me to a future meeting.

As chair of the committee, your primary responsibilities include:

- promptly informing the Chancellor's Office of the results of the election of officers and any changes in committee membership
- organizing and conducting meetings
- completing a year-end report on the committee's activities to be submitted to the Chancellor's Office no later than May 25, 2014.

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## **Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability (JCES)**

### **Meeting Minutes**

11:00 a.m., September 13, 2013

#### **JCES Committee members attending:**

Isaiah Burish, Nadia Carmosini, Emily Johnson, Maggie McDermott, Alexis Merbach, John Pieper, Larry Sleznikow, Ryan Sneath, Dan Sweetman, Allison Thaiss, Libby Thorson, Steve Tippins, Rob Tyser

#### **Others attending:**

Buzz Bocher

#### **1. Minutes**

None

#### **2. Election of Chair, Recording Secretary and meeting time**

M/S/P to elect Steve Tippins as Chair

M/S/P that Rob Tyser serve as Secretary

Our committee will be meeting Fridays at 11:00 this semester.

#### **3. Discussion**

Our committee will likely be receiving a formal charge from Chancellor Gow.

Jake Larkin, a UW-L student, submitted a Green Fund proposal for a U-Haul car-share program. JESC will be receiving this proposal from Ian Wright, Student Green Fund Coordinator.

We discussed topics that JCES may be interested in focusing on this year. Topics mentioned included carrying forward our recommendations from last year, including the Campus Garden and sustainability coordination (for academic programming and for joining the STARS campus assessment program).

Additional items discussed:

- Should JCES have a more formal role in influencing campus policies?
- Students may be interested in pushing for greater sustainability awareness on campus, including incorporating sustainability into UW-L's mission statement.
- Status of UW-L's working composing efforts.
- How best to participate in planning the new student union building.
- Recruiting additional student members for our committee.

Next meeting: 11:00 September 27.

Submitted by Rob Tyser  
Recording Secretary

**Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability (JCES)  
Meeting Minutes**

11:00 a.m., September 27, 2013

**JCES Committee members attending:**

Isaiah Burish, Nadia Carmosini, Emily Johnson, Maggie McDermott, Alexis Merbach, Larry Sleznikow, Ryan Sneath, Dan Sweetman, Steve Tippins, Rob Tyser, Victor Hill

**Others attending:**

Buzz Bocher, Alysa Remsburg

**1. Minutes**

M/S/P to accept minutes from our September 13 meeting (with corrections)

**2. Discussion**

- Our vermicomposting system continues to function off-campus and is still used to process UW-L food wastes. Future plans include moving the system to a new facility at Western Technical College, where it would continue to be used by UW-L.
- We discussed how best to present recommendations to the Dean's Council regarding an academic sustainability coordinator and a sustainability assessment coordinator. Suggestions included seeking support from Student Senate and other student groups.
- Possible committee tasks for the year (to be forwarded to Chancellor Gow to consider as he gives our committee a formal charge): seeking support for sustainability coordination, starting a campus garden, addressing campus transportation issues, enrolling in the STARS sustainability assessment program, and reviewing Green Fund proposals.
- We will consider the Green Fund car-share proposal at our next meeting.
- Also discussed: Students for Sustainability are interested in bring a recharging station for electric cars.

Submitted by Rob Tyser  
Recording Secretary

## **Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability (JCES)**

### **Meeting Minutes**

11:00 a.m., October 11, 2013

#### **JCES Committee members attending:**

Isaiah Burish, Nadia Carmosini, Victor Hill, Alexis Merbach, John Pieper, Larry Sleznikow, Ryan Sneath, Libby Thorson, Dan Sweetman, Steve Tippins, Sara Torgerson, Rob Tyser, Kevin Weis

#### **Others attending:**

Buzz Bocher, Ian Wright

#### **1. Minutes**

M/S/P to accept minutes from our September 27 meeting

#### **2. Announcements**

- November 9 will be the deadline to submit new Green Fund proposals. JCES will likely meet to discuss proposals November 15 or November 22.
- In an upcoming workshop, Student Senate will likely be using a proposal to join STARS to illustrate how resolutions should be written.

#### **3. Discussion**

- We spent considerable time discussing a proposal to the Green Fund to start a car-share program on campus. The proposal submitted identified U-Haul as the vendor and proposed that the program would use two cars that would be available to UW-L faculty and students for short-term rentals. There was general support for this program, especially if it could be widely publicized to students and their parents. In addition, it was noted that several car-share programs are now available, including those sponsored by Zipcar and Enterprise. The following action was taken:

M/S/P our Transportation Subcommittee come back in one month with a recommendation about establishing a car-sharing program on campus.

- Libby presented a rough draft of sustainability vision and mission statements for possible endorsement by UW-L. These statements will be shared via Google Docs to committee members.
- Other items discussed: Nadia may bring an updated Garden proposal to our next meeting. Dr. Joan Bunbury (Geography) will be the UW-L point of contact for our vermicomposting project for the current academic year. This function will likely be taken over by another UW-L faculty or staff member next year.

#### **4. Formation of subcommittees (tentative member lists)**

- Transportation: Victor Hill, Dan Sweetman, Ian Wright
- Garden: Nadia Carmosini, Allison Thais, Buzz Bocher, Isaiah Burish, Ryan Sneath
- Sustainability Coordination: Alex Merbach, Sara Torgerson, Steve Tippins, Rob Tyser
- Communication/Outreach: Larry Sleznikow, Kevin Weis

Submitted by Rob Tyser  
Recording Secretary



**Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability (JCES)**  
**Meeting Minutes**

11:00 a.m., October 25, 2013

**JCES Committee members attending:**

Isaiah Burish, Maggie McDermott, Alexis Merbach, John Pieper, Larry Sleznikow, Ryan Sneath,  
Libby Thorson, Dan Sweetman, Steve Tippins, Rob Tyser,

**Others attending:**

Buzz Bocher, Alysa Remsburg

**1. Announcements**

- Chancellor Gow has issued a formal charge to our committee (attached).
- A campus garden spot has been identified. It will occupy the area formerly used for the Native American garden.
- Committee representatives will be speaking to the Nov. 5 meeting of the Deans Council about the need for sustainability coordination. Student input and participation will be helpful!

**2. Discussion**

- Buzz brought several examples of sustainability project report from his ENV 496 class, one of which conducted a campus survey about attitudes toward sustainability.
- Questions for future consideration:  
Is Sodexo meeting its contractual obligations regarding sustainability?  
Should JCES adopt a sustainability mission statement? Larry distributed some sample verbiage  
Would UW-L students be interested in preparing an article for the La Crosse Tribune about their perspective on sustainability?

**3. Next meeting (Nov 8)**

- Agenda item: Car Share proposal

Submitted by Rob Tyser  
Recording Secretary

# Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability (JCES)

## Meeting Minutes

11:00 a.m., November 8, 2013

### JCES Committee members attending:

Isaiah Burish, Nadia Carmonsini, Emily Johnson, Maggie McDermott, Alexis Merbach, John Pieper, Larry Sleznikow, Steve Tippins, Rob Tyser, Kevin Weiss

### Others attending:

Buzz Bocher, Alysa Remsburg, Allison Thaiss, Ian Wright

### 1. Minutes

M/S/P to accept minutes from our 10/11/2013 meeting.

M/S/P to accept minutes from our 10/25/2013 meeting

### 2. Announcements

- Victor met with two student from Students for Sustainability to discuss the idea of a charging station on campus, possibly funded with the Green Fund. In addition, he is looking into the possibility of applying for green certification of the parking ramp.
- Dan Sweetman notes that applicants for the Executive Director of Facilities Planning and Management will be going through onsite interviews in December and open forums will be communicated announced in the Campus Connection. JCES members are encouraged to attend and provide feedback.

### 3. Discussion

- The U-Haul car sharing proposal that was submitted to the Green Fund was discussed. Enterprise also offers a similar program and for a very similar price.

M/S/P to recommend supporting the U-Haul car sharing proposal that was submitted to the Green Fund earlier in the

- The Garden Subcommittee has prepared a proposal that will be submitted to the Green Fund next week. JCES members appreciated the amount of work that this subcommittee has devoted to this idea.
- Questions for future consideration:  
Is Sodexo meeting its contractual obligations regarding sustainability?  
Should JCES adopt a sustainability mission statement? Larry distributed some sample verbiage  
Would UW-L students be interested in preparing an article for the La Crosse Tribune about their perspective on sustainability?
- Steve, Alexis, and Rob reported about their meeting with the Provost and the Deans' Council this week. The Provost will support STARS program fees (approximately \$1,000 to join and \$500 in subsequent years), though funding for a Sustainability Assessment Coordinator and an Academic Assessment Coordinator is not yet available. The possibility of using Green Funds to support sustainability coordination was discussed at great length. Two areas of potential concern were raised. First, sustainability coordinators are not funded in this manner on other UW campuses. UW-L Administration should be expected to show a comparable level of support. Second, the Green Fund has always been used to fund projects, not UWL staff positions. Possible compromise strategies were discussed.

### 3. Next meeting (Nov 15)

- Agenda: Review Green Fund proposals.

Submitted by Rob Tyser  
Recording Secretary

**Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability (JCES)**  
**Meeting Minutes**

11:00 a.m., November 15, 2013

**JCES Committee members attending:**

Isaiah Burish, Nadia Carmonsini, Emily Johnson, Alexis Merbach, John Pieper, Larry Sleznikow,  
Libby Thorson, Dan Sweetman, Steve Tippins, Rob Tyser

**Others attending:**

Alysa Remsburg, Allison Thaiss, Ian Wright

**1. Green Fund proposal presentations**

- James Longhurst, Mahruq Khan and Paula Knutson made short presentations in support of their Green Fund proposals.

**2. Green Fund Proposals**

- Gaither (campus rain gardens): M/S/P that this proposal meets Green Fund criteria. This would likely be contingent on being supported by Campus Planning, and Building & Grounds.
- Heing et al. (electric vehicle charging station): this proposal has been withdrawn.
- Khan and Hanson (Julia Hill speaking): M/S/P that this proposal meets Green Fund criteria.
- Longhurst (bicycle/pedestrian plan proposal): M/S/P that this proposal meets Green Fund criteria. Other comments: The idea and purpose of this proposal are great. However, it would be helpful to first confirm that UW-L students and administration confirm they see a need to create this plan. This is a potentially serious drawback for funding this proposal.
- Peters (LEED lighting for the new student union): M/S/P that this proposal meets Green Fund criteria. Electricity savings would reduce future utility bills for this building.
- Sleznikow (purchase documentary films for showing on campus): M/S/P that this proposal meets Green Fund criteria.
- Thais and Carmonsini (campus garden): M/S/P that this proposal meets Green Fund criteria.
- White (HVACR system for the Eagle Center): M/S/P that this proposal meets Green Fund criteria.
- Wright and Vogt (film festival): M/S/P that this proposal meets Green Fund criteria.

**3. Green Fund Mini-proposals**

- Heil (Solar Power): M/S/P to fund this proposal.
- U-Haul car share: M/S/P to extend funding for this proposal to 2 years. Comment: The original 1-year proposal was passed last week, but it is more efficient to plan for a 2-year commitment to U-Haul.

**4. Next meeting (Nov 22)**

Submitted by Rob Tyser  
Recording Secretary

**Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability (JCES)**  
**Meeting Minutes**

11:00 a.m., January 31, 2014

**JCES Committee members attending:**

Elaine Anderson, Isaiah Burish, Samantha Finley, Victor Hill, Emily Johnson, Mggie McDermott,  
Alexis Merbach, John Pieper, Alysa Remsburg, Libby Thorson, Ryan Sneath, Dan Sweetman,  
Steve Tippins, Sara Torgerson, Rob Tyser

**1. Announcements**

- Joan Bunbury is interesting in recruiting student volunteers to work in UW-L's vermicomposting program.
- Provost Macpherson announced that UW-L will be participating in the STARS program and that Kelly Nowicki (Department of Management) will be leading our efforts. This is very encouraging news! We will seek clarification about the title and responsibilities of this position.
- Steve Tippins will be leaving for Costa Rica at the end of the semester and is interested if anyone is willing to serve as co-chair this year, which could help build continuity of leadership for next year.
- Dan will be seeking clarification about whether or not UW-L is an official participant of the Zimride ride share program. Our understanding is that we are not.
- Victor and Dan will be creating a brochure for incoming students and staff about alternative transportation options at UW-L. These options would include MTU bus passes and our upcoming car-sharing program. This may also include information about smart bus options.
- Victor will be seeking formal certification in child car seat safety. He is interested in partnering Sue Wrobel (Director of UW-L's Campus Child Care Center) to help parents install safe car seats for their children.

**2. New Business**

- M/S/P that we ask the Faculty Senate to indorse our sustainability mission statement (attached), which we drafted last September.

Our intent is that this statement, which has also been endorsed by the Student Senate and the Academic Staff Council, would appear on UW-L's sustainability web site.

- We will be revising our committee bylaws this semester, starting with our next meeting.
- M/S/P to continue discussion of how a UW-L academic sustainability coordinator might be created.

**M/S/P to adjourn. Next meeting: February 15**

Submitted by Rob Tyser  
Recording Secretary

**Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability (JCES)  
Meeting Minutes**

11:00 a.m., February 14, 2014

**Those attending:**

Nadia Carmosini, Eric Veh, Victor Hill,, John Pieper, Larry Sleznikow, Dan Sweetman, Steve Tippins, Sara Torgerson, Rob Tyser

**1. Approval of minutes**

- M/S/P to approve minutes from the 1/13/2014 meeting.

**2. Announcements**

- The Faculty Senate formally endorsed the Vision/Mission statement of sustainability that JCES prepared in December. In addition to the Faculty Senate statement had previously been endorsed by the Student Senate and the Academic Staff Council.
- Eric Vehe presented an overview of DeroZAP, a program that encourages the using bikes to commute to campus. This program has been implemented at UM-Duluth and UM-Minneapolis. Eric will continue to investigate this program, including costs, oversight, locations on campus where the monitoring stations might be placed.

**2. New Business**

- M/S/P that Nadia will serve as a co-chair with Steve for the remainder of the semester, while Steve prepares to transition to Costa Rica.
- We discussed a mini-grant Green Fund proposal to support student travel to attend meetings in Washington, D.C. Given the liability issues involved with using a private bus, we decided not to support this proposal. The author of the proposal will be encouraged to talk with UW-L's Risk Manager, Scott Holzem, to better understand potential liability issues.
- Bylaw Revision: Revisions to consider include 1) clarifying JCES's role in the Green Fund process (e.g., approval of mini-grants, evaluating proposals on the basis of whether or not they meet criteria for submission, and indicating the relative merit proposals that do meet Green Fund criteria, 2) expanding representation of academic staff and classified staff on the committee, 3) designating a specified meeting time, 4) adding the STARS Sustainability Coordinator to the committee, and 5) clarifying that the Apportionment Committee is now referred to as SUFAC (Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee).

Next meeting: February 28

Submitted by Rob Tyser  
Recording Secretary

**Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability (JCES)**  
**Meeting Minutes**

11:00 a.m., February 28, 2014

**Those attending:**

Buzz Bocher, Isaiah Burish, Nadia Carmosini, Emily Johnson, Maggie McDermott, Alexis Merbach, Kelly Nowicki, John Pieper, Doug Pearson, Dan Sweetman, Steve Tippins, Rob Tyser

**1. Approval of minutes**

- M/S/P to approve minutes of the 2/14/2014 meeting.

**2. Announcements**

- Recycle Mania is now underway at UW-L.
- Doug Pearson, newly hired as Executive Director of Facilities Planning and Management, attended our meeting and introduced himself. In addition, Kelly Nowicki, newly appointed STARS Sustainability Assessment Coordinator, was in attendance and looks forward to working with JCES in the future. Welcome to both individuals!
- Libby Thorson will be discussing a possible panel discussion by international students on the topic of sustainability.
- Nadia presented an update on the Campus Garden. She is interested in having an official UW-L student organization, rather than an ad hoc garden club, involved with oversight of the garden. This would allow fund-raising and covering miscellaneous expenses associated with this project. Students for Sustainability and the Botany Club have expressed interest in supporting the Campus Garden.

**3. New Business**

- We reviewed potential changes to the JCES bylaws, which will be considered at a future meeting. Specific items that were discussed included student membership, pros/cons of having the STARS sustainability Coordinator be a formal member of the committee, and establishing a set time for JCES meetings.

Submitted by Rob Tyser  
Recording Secretary

**Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability (JCES)**  
**Meeting Minutes**

11:00 a.m., March 14, 2014

**Those attending:**

Isaiah Burish, Nadia Carmosini, Maggie McDermott, Alexis Merbach, Kelly, Alysa Remsburg,  
Larry Slezniow, Ryan Sneath, Dan Sweetman, Sara Torgerson, Rob Tyser

**1. Announcements**

- Dan noted that UW-L will be initiating an e-waste recycling program in the near future.
- Dan is in the final stages of formalizing a car-share program with Enterprise. It will be good to complete this project and start advertising soon, especially given the upcoming shortage of parking space on campus.

**2. Mini-Green Fund Proposals**

- M/S/P to approve the Earth Week proposal, contingent on approval by Larry Ringgenberg for purchase of items included in the proposal (tee shirts, bike lights, etc.)
- M/S/P to approve the proposal to hire two student interns to help maintain the new Campus Garden.

Submitted by Rob Tyser  
Recording Secretary

## **Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability (JCES)**

### **Meeting Minutes**

11:00 a.m., March 28, 2014

#### **Those attending:**

Isaiah Burish, Nadia Carmosini, Victor Hill, Emily Johnson, Kelly Nowicki, John Pieper, Alysa Remsburg, Larry Sleznikow, Ryan Sneath, Dan Sweetman, Steve Tippins, Sara Torgerson, Rob Tyser, Ian Wright

#### **1. Approval of minutes**

M/S/P to approve minutes of our February 28 meeting.

M/S/P to approve minutes of our March 14 meeting.

#### **2. Announcements**

- Green Fund applications are due April 5. Ian will distribute proposals and a rubric for evaluating proposals to JCES members on April 6. JCES will review proposals at our April 11 meeting.
- Rob will invite Doug Salmon to our April 11 meeting to provide an overview of the status of the Green Fund

#### **3. New business**

- M/S/P to adopt revised bylaws (attached)

Submitted by Rob Tyser  
Recording Secretary



## **Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability (JCES)**

### **Meeting Minutes**

11:00 a.m., April 11, 2014

#### **Those attending:**

Isaiah Burish, Nadia Carmosini, Victor Hill, Emily Johnson, Alexis Merbach, Sara Nicklay, Kelly Nowicki, John Pieper, Alysa Remsburg, Larry Sleznikow, Dan Sweetman, Libby Thorson, Steve Tippins, Sara Torgerson, Rob Tyser, Ian Wright, Nicole Zitzner

#### **1. Announcements**

- Please note that the Earth Week film series is continuing.
- Larry has brochures advertising Earth Day events that will be occurring at the Myrick Hixon Ecopark.
- Representatives from Sodexo briefly explained a local food promotion that is being sponsored at UW-L.

#### **2. Green Fund Reviews**

- M/S/P that the Reuter Hall showerhead proposal meets Green Fund criteria and is highly recommend.
- M/S/P that the water bottle refilling station proposal meets Green Fund criteria and is highly recommend.
- M/S/P that the freshman registration tote bag proposal meets Green Fund criteria and is recommended.
- M/S/P that the shower timer proposal meets Green Fund criteria and is recommend.
- M/S to recommend the Longhurst proposal (failed on a tie vote)

Next meeting: April 25

Submitted by Rob Tyser  
Recording Secretary

June 4, 2014

To: Joe Gow, Chancellor

From: Nadia Carmosini, Co-chair, JCES

Dear Chancellor Gow:

I am happy to report that the Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability had a productive year supporting and promoting sustainability efforts on the UW-La Crosse campus. We met every other week with consistently excellent attendance from our members. This report briefly describes our accomplishments.

1. **Bylaw Revisions** – In 2012-13, the UW-L Student Association asked that JCES play a greater role in evaluating and recommending Green Fund proposals; however, JCES bylaws limited our actions to only evaluating whether a grant met the application criteria. This led us to review and revise our bylaws so that Green Fund proposals that meet application criteria will now be classified as highly recommended, recommended, or not recommended. Decisions made by JCES will be forwarded to the Student Association and the Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee (SUFAC) for further review and final funding decisions. In addition, we expanded our membership to include the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) coordinator, a new campus position. We ask that you please review the new bylaws, found immediately following this report, so that they can be implemented beginning September 2014.
2. **Sustainability Mission Statement** – Members of JCES prepared and approved a new university mission statement geared towards sustainability. The statement was also approved by the Student Association, the Academic Staff Council, and the Faculty Senate. It is included in the revised bylaws, and will also appear on an updated UW-L sustainability webpage that is currently under construction by JCES members.
3. **Green Fund** – We evaluated 15 Green Fund proposals over two rounds of funding in the fall and spring semesters. We also reviewed 5 mini-Green Fund proposals throughout the year as they were submitted.
4. **Campus Garden** – Hard work and cooperation between JCES members, student organizations (Students for Sustainability, Botany Club), and the UW-L grounds-keeping crew have brought the campus garden to fruition. It is located on the site of the previous Native American herb and vegetable garden. Although changed in appearance and management, it continues to honor the memory of Merlin Red Cloud Jr.
5. **Sustainability Assessment** – We are extraordinarily pleased that UW-L Administration decided to join the STARS sustainability assessment program, which will enable us to measure the effectiveness of our campus sustainability efforts. Kelly Nowicki has a 25% FTE reassignment to lead our efforts. Most other UW System campuses are also participating in the STARS program. It is important to note that this program promotes ongoing quality improvement; assessment ratings are valid for 3-year cycles.

A particularly important priority that our committee continues to work on since 2012 is the development of a Sustainability Coordinator position. Many individuals and groups are making concerted efforts towards fostering sustainability on the UW-L campus; however, the visibility,

continuity, and optimization of these efforts is greatly lacking without the vision and leadership of a dedicated individual. Indeed, UW-L lags behind 11 other UW System comprehensives and regional colleges who have 50 – 150% FTE Sustainability Coordinators. This will continue to be an important charge our committee, and we would appreciate your consideration and support with this issue. In addition, JCES will be actively engaged in supporting the STARS assessment program next year, and it would be helpful if this were listed as a formal charge to our committee next year.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve with such a dedicated and engaged group of faculty, staff and students.