Green Campus Committee Meeting
December 1, 2009


On December 3, together with the Green Team there will be a workshop on bulb planting and how to make the holidays less impactful.

Gerardo made a few observations about the Greenhouse. He is the only one there every day. He suggested that all plants be labeled with the kind of plant, who it belongs to, and the owner’s telephone number. People have donated plants and since there have been breakdowns in communication, the plants have not been adequately cared for. There is also the problem of over watering. There could be a section for those plants. Alice is willing to make up the labels.

We have to decide if we have “greenhouse plants” vs. privately owned plants. We would limit how much we would take. If we get too many, we might give them away or sell them as a fundraiser. At this point there’s no over-crowding, but in the event there is, we might sell them.

Alice told us that a first year graduate student wants to use the Greenhouse for an academic purpose (how to use herbs/vegetables).

We need to begin planning Earth Day. Kent’s students will do the river cleanup. Earth Day is April 22, which is a Thursday. To some extent we are dependent on the tides, and the Riverkeepers will let us know which days work. We discussed possible activities including seminars, student competitions (for example, a bingo game where people get punches to win prizes), a butterfly release, a River walk/ trash pick-up, outside vendors, music acts, green careers, plant sales, greenhouse tour, a production by the theater group, and a poster session about environmental research or projects that are ongoing.

Who would like to help with contacting vendors? Chris, Cynthia, Jamie, Gerardo (student organizations) volunteered. Gillian will speak to the Theater Group. They could do “An Enemy of the People?”

The rain location will be the fitness center. Christine will take care of the tables. Can we get environmentally friendly plates/cups? Jamie will look into this.

We discussed the idea of planting more trees and using the Greenhouse for that. We would need a landscape architect. We would have to get Facilities involved. Other related topics we discussed included having an orchard, planting more native plants, planting a garden, and selling evergreens as a fundraiser.

We also brought up what Kent, Chris and I had learned at the program we had attended. Rich suggested that Shelley Drucker was someone we might speak to about energy usage.
Rich also suggested that we push to buy two more electric cars. We have already saved $8,000 in gasoline by having the two and another $2,000 in maintenance. We would need a strong statement from the Green Committee about buying two more electric cars. We would reduce the gasoline vehicles by two.

We could even email public safety about this, including the editor of the paper. We could build this into Earth Day. Chris will undertake this project.

Alice brought up that there are a lot of competitions we could participate in including recyclemania, competitions for using less energy, and weighing food waste.

We might have a subcommittee to look into the garbage.

Rich also suggested we come up with an agenda just for Shelley focusing on electricity and fuel oil. He should know what we’re doing. Maybe prepare an agenda where he’s kept busy. We might want to revive the subcommittees. If we decide to try solar panels, there is state money for institutions to create these panels.

Rich will ask Mike Aiello to come to a meeting.

People can email questions for Mike/Shelley.

We will meet again on Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 11:30 am in the Joan Ludwiczac conference room.