Green Campus Committee
Minutes
May 21, 2009

Greenhouse. We discussed the greenhouse. It is on schedule to be completed. It may come in under budget because we will use electrical heating rather than steam heating. If so, we may use the extra money to put in a patio.

We need to write a clear usage and management policy for the greenhouse. We need to determine who manages the “Metro” part. We’re assuming the research part will be managed by the School of Natural Sciences. Alice said that we will have a work study student assigned to help with the greenhouse. Other options are for the Greenhouse Committee to participate in management. Rich has suggested that the Office of the Provost be the place to call to reserve it. We need a usage policy to guide this process, including a “growing” policy. We will have a meeting during the summer to delineate these issues. We can use the policies for the other rooms as a template.

The worst thing that can happen is that it is not used. We can begin the process of enhancing our own community relationships with the greenhouse and thereby maximize the likelihood that it will be used productively. There is a big initiative for urban farming and restoration of native species. We also need to look at campus organizations and determine priorities for use. A small committee will need to review proposals for using the greenhouse. Someone knowledgeable about plants should be part of this committee to give estimates of how long it will be needed for growing things and how much space will be utilized.

We will meet on Thursday, June 25 at 11 am to discuss a greenhouse use policy.

Saturday, October 3, 2009 is Homecoming Family Weekend. We may dedicate the greenhouse then.

Review of 2008-2009 Academic year. We discussed our accomplishments for the year. These included securing approval for the greenhouse to be built and getting it built, Earth Day, Four email “blasts” about going green, authoring a power point to be used to educate the campus about environmental issues, and putting up a website.

We need to send out thank you emails to outside vendors who participated in Earth Day.

Plans for 2009-2010. We discussed potential projects for next year.

1. Recycling. For next year, how do we get more recycle bins? The recycle bins are purchased and maintained by facilities. Placement and maintenance of the recycle bins is a facilities issue. If we have a budget, we may allocate money for this. We need to speak to Mike Aiello about issues to recycling and reducing use of paper products in Food Services.

2. Eliminate cafeteria trays. Rich mentioned that if you take trays out of the cafeteria, people waste less food. There is also a decrease in students’ weight gain. There would also be a significant savings in energy. We can meet with Mike Aiello and present this idea to him.
3. We discussed the idea of combining Earth Day with other events. Rich believed that having the event at the same time was helpful. We should do something similar. Maybe we should have an FDU Day. We will need to start planning now. We had several student groups who joined us this year and who we would want to involve for next year.

4. We discussed possible events for the fall. We agreed that we could organize a few Teaneck river hikes where students could hike and clean up trash. We discussed how we might dispose of the trash.

5. Rich had a potential project for next year. At one time, the pond outside Williams Hall was very beautiful. It was maintained. Now it is overgrown, ugly, and swampy. Two years ago at the Provost’s office request, there was an attempt to clean it out. A third of it was done. An individual filed a complaint with the DEP that we were intruding on a natural wetland. We would then have to obtain a series of permits. Alice suggested that we not pull out the vegetation on the channel (including endangered species). We should let it grow as a wetland. Next year, we can invite Mike Holland to comment on this.

6. We also discussed the possibility of having a garden. However, it would have to be something that is well thought out.

7. The power point presentation is on the website and Cynthia has it. The education committee can present to the professional administrative senate. They meet in the fall. Okang McBride could get 20 minutes on the agenda. We can speak to Judith Kaufman about doing the power point in Freshman Seminar. We will also present to the RAs. Another possibility is Freshman Orientation.

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9. Terarecycle has a program for recycling yogurt containers, and snackbags. Jenna can look into this for us.

Other New Business.

1. The mission statement was approved. It will be emailed to Meghan and put on the front page of the summary we send to Rich.

2. In order to enhance the likelihood that we will have a budget, we can put together a report of what we have done. How we were organized and what the subcommittee has done.

3. We voted to reorganize committees according to Events and Education.

4. It was suggested that we set up the meeting schedule for the entire year. We will set up two different meeting times.

5. We will also set up a directory of members. Alice will type this up and distribute it.

6. We will also poll the membership to see if they are still interested in being a part of the committee.