SMU Sustainability Committee
Meeting Minutes for March 11, 2009

In attendance: (see attachment)

Minutes:

- Tiana Lightfoot provided some background and history for the origin of the committee
- Introductions were made for this inaugural meeting of the SMU Sustainability committee
- A brief overview of the guidelines for members and attendance was provided
- Members were asked to review the bylaws prior to the next meeting and provide comments and suggestion. Bylaws will be voted on at the next meeting.
- Michael Paul and Bonnie Jacobs will be the interim Co-chairs for the remainder of the 2008-09 academic year.
- Nominations for the 2009-2010 Executive Committee will take place at the April meeting with elections to be held during the May meeting.
- Cori Cusker provided an overview of SMU's participation in Recyclemania, an annual intercollegiate competition. This is SMU's first year to fully participate. In the past Aramark has provided numbers for Dining Services only. SMU is participating in the non-competitive Benchmark competition. For additional information or to follow SMU's numbers: http://recyclemaniacs.org/Index.htm
- Michael Paul gives a brief explanation of the President's Climate Commitment and STARS. Members were asked to review both to start having some familiarity with them for discussion on the committee. The links provided are:
    - http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/html/commitment.php
    - http://www.aashe.org/documents/stars/STARS_Pilot_Phase_One_Guide.pdf
    - http://www.aashe.org/documents/stars/STARS_Pilot_Phase_Two.pdf
- Question asked: Who is SMU's AASHE representative. Michael Paul and Bonnie Jacobs are to research and find out who it is and update as appropriate.
- Bonnie Jacobs also shared that SMU is a member of the National Center for Science and the environment. We are part of the subgroup that works with university curriculum. Their webpage is: http://ncseonline.org/
- At the request of an attendee, Michael Paul shared some examples of SMU's recent green initiatives. In addition to the ones attached, some that are in progress are:
    - Entering into a contract with a biofield for power.
    - Committing to buying 100 uniform recycling bins to be placed around campus
    - All urinals have been made waterless
        - A suggestion was made to put signs up by the urinals explaining that they are waterless.
    - Installing hand dryers. Will still give a choice between dryers and hand towels along with and educational ad campaign about the differences.
- Michael Paul also suggested that a recycling sub-committee should be one of the first ones established and recommended Eric English leading that committee.
- Tiana Lightfoot encouraged everyone to educate and promote green and recycling initiatives in their own building and department/division.
- In order to facilitate information sharing, members have been asked to complete a SWOT exercise by the March meeting. This exercise will enable us to identify what we are already doing across campus and where are we falling short. It will help facilitate the process of starting to set goals and prioritizing areas of focus. It will also give us the opportunity to examine ways to streamline and become more consistent in how we operate across campus with regards to sustainable practices. SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. Each member should examine their own area (department, office, organization, classes, etc) and discuss the following:
    - Strengths – what are you or your area already doing with regards to green and sustainable practices/efforts? (Examples: only purchasing green office supplies.; promotion of green practices in your department; recycling bins in your buildings; having environmentally focused academic programs available to students)

- Weaknesses – what are some improvements that could be made in your area? (Examples: Recycling not readily available; Use of non-green products, like Styrofoam cups by department members; lack of consistency)
- Opportunities – what resources are potentially available? (Examples: funding available through your department to support initiatives; Individuals in your department or area who are interested and passionate about this topic; student groups with an environmental focus)
- Threats – what challenges are keeping you and your area from moving forward with increased green and sustainable practices? (Examples – lack of funding; lack of support; lack of interest; need for additional education)