Minutes for EAC Meeting: 2/22/2007

Present: Syfert, Rambow, Coleman, Burcin, Matthews, Whiteman, Fletcher, Lindenber, Craig, Aelion, Luna, Demarest, Hunter

I. Energy Independence Bills (Matthews)
- State Senator Ritchie has introduced four bills concerning energy policy
  1) Requires LEED Silver certification for state buildings for 15 years
  2) Requires LEED Silver certification for new construction of K-12 buildings, in perpetuity
  3) Incentive package to expedite the permit process if developers seek LEED Silver certification
  4) Fuels Act, requiring all fleet vehicles to be hybrid/alt. fuel

- Kirsten Colman let it be known that the SC Alliance for Sustainable Campuses and Communities (SCASCC) supports the bills, unamended.
- SCASCC has postcards in support of the bills that can be sent to representatives
- There will be a lobby day/meeting with students on April 3 & 4
- Kirsten will draft a letter to the USC lobby committee (Johnny Gregory) to determine USC’s position on the issue
- The question of how the recertification costs will affect schools was brought up: Are there any provisions for funding recertification in the bills? What is the cost-effectiveness of recertification?
- The EAC will not explicitly endorse the bills as representatives of the University.

II. Departmental Assessments (Rambow)
- In process of collecting assessment surveys, hope to have all surveys by beginning of March in order to prepare presentation for EAC for April meeting.
- Have modified surveys from last year to try to incorporate more quantifiable questions
- Have received completed surveys from EHS and Landscaping.
- Also working to collect data that can be input into Campus GHG calculator.

III. Metering Update (Demarest)
- Johnson Controls has been contracted to collect and verify metering information comparing West Quad v. East Quad and also Earth and Water Science Building v. New Public Health Building.
- March 1 is the collection start point, and information should be available by the 2nd or 3rd week of April.
- How do the costs of recertification compare with savings?
- There is a lack of monitoring across universities, why doesn’t LEED require monitoring?

IV. Golf cart parking (Matthews)
- Faculty member from Law School wants to be able to drive golf cart to campus on rainy days, but there are no provisions for doing so or for parking.
- Will the EAC consider this question/lend any support?
- Can there be designated golf cart parking or expansion of motorcycle parking to include golf carts?
- Concerns: 1) golf carts are not street legal  2) would there be any provisions for students doing this – behavioral concerns?

V. SAGE (Coleman)
- Joan Brady will be speaking about energy bills and issues on Thurs, March 1 at 2:30 PM in the Russell House. Only open to students.
- Global Warming Stakeholders Conference will be held Thurs, March 29. If you would like to be a panel member, please contact Kirsten Coleman.
- SAGE is holding a meeting with Dr. Sorenson on March 9 to discuss LEED issues on campus
- A trash audit will be conducted later this semester.
- The SSREC conference at Clemson attracted 300 students from across the Southeast.
- Website for the SCASSC climate campaign is www.climateaction.net
- Mountain Justice Spring Break will take a group of students to mining towns in West Virginia March 10-18.
- Sponsoring a call-in day to Gov. Sanford on March 5 to oppose new nuclear facilities in SC.
- League of Conservation voters will be hosting a march sometime in July to support clean energy campaigns.
- Step It Up Campaign for clean energy will be on April 14
- Earth Day will be celebrated April 18-20

VI. Student Government (Coleman)
- Ben Springer is researching the feasibility of putting trash cans and recycling bins in parking garages.
- Also looking at replacing trash can liners with decomposable ones.
- Will be purchasing bicycles for the fleet in the upcoming weeks.

VII. Carnegie Mellon “Sleep Mode” campaign (Luna)
- Educational campaign to encourage people to turn off computers or use sleep mode.
- USC is looking into ability to automate this across campus, but also needs an educational campaign.
- Mike and Tom will send a letter to Jeff Farnham, interim director of UTS
- Is this something that could be promoted through PSAs on campus buses and over the campus radio station? Should the EAC sponsor this?

VIII. Academics (Matthews)
- Soliciting for ideas for student projects. Possible topics include: biodiesel plant evaluation, recycling website, performance assessments, compost feasibility study, LEED monitoring, lighting studies, and environmental education.
- There is currently a national conversation about bringing sustainability into the general education requirements
- The USC General Education Committee has been formed to look at general ed. requirements. Should a representative from the EAC touch base to promote adding sustainability to the requirements?