Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
February 15, 2005

In Attendance: Gene Luna, Michelle Burcin, Michael Koman, Jim Sherry, George Lampl, Marj Aelion, Kirsten Coleman, Bruce Coull, Josh Eagle, Jim Sweigart, Tom Knowles, Glen Kelly, Mike Scheffres, Ben Coonrod, Allison Peeler, Lisa Sima, Stuart Hunter, Kirstin Dow  

Students and Staff: Erika Hartwig, Trish Jerman, Elaine Durr

Next Meeting: March 23 @ West Quad – Noon, lunch will be served

Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

Updates:
Smoking Policy & Healthy Carolina – Gene Luna, Michelle Burcin: Gene has integrated the Health Advisory Committee’s draft smoking policy with the EAC’s draft smoking policy, incorporated national efforts and information, and created a collective draft smoking policy. This policy will (he hopes) be adopted by the Board of Trustees later this spring. Bruce asked about enforcement issues on balconies and at stadium venues and the legality of the policy. George Lampl said the University legally has the right to have such a policy. Josh Eagle suggested placing signage in appropriate places to inform the campus community and visitors of the policy. Tom Syfert suggested adding language about designated smoking areas. However, the University is not obligated to have designated areas.

Anyone with additional suggestions or comments on the smoking policy should e-mail Gene at genel@gwm.sc.edu

Gene also informed the group of the University’s new Healthy Carolina Initiative and introduced Michelle Burcin who is working with this initiative. Gene and Michelle will provide a more formal presentation on the Healthy Carolina Initiative at the next EAC meeting.

Bikes – Ben Coonrod, Kirsten Coleman: Ben reported that the Central Midlands Council of Governments has created a bicycle/pedestrian plan for the area. Its focus is on implementation; issues pertaining to the University include considering marked bike lanes on Assembly Street and providing a better connection between the Greek Village and the River Walk. They have also asked the University for a bike plan and location of bike facilities on campus. The location of bike facilities is being addressed by Vehicle Management with their website. Ben, along with the Bicycle Committee, has been working on a bike plan for campus, which has been approved by that committee. He is preparing to have the plan approved by his department and then move up the chain of command to the President and Board of Trustees. Bruce suggested the bike plan be integrated with the Master Plan of campus, which is being worked on by Sasaki.

Kirsten reported that she is finalizing a funding proposal for the bicycle fleet. She is planning to ask for $15,000 to provide 50 to 75 bikes for a trial bike rental program open to students. She has met with student government representatives and V.P. Dennis Pruitt about her proposal and has received positive feedback and support from them.

SAGE/Student Government, Kirsten Coleman: Kirsten reported that student government and SAGE are working with Mike Scheffres and Helen Ziegler to enable the University to purchase more local and/or organic food products. Mike added that he has had two meetings with Emile De Felice, the South Carolina Director of the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association, about purchasing local products. Mike believes there will be a limited selection of items at first. Dining Services is planning to expand Zia’s Juice Bar and open a New York style deli, which will hopefully offer more local and organic options. There have also been discussions about offering whole fruit items that are local or organic.

Issues:
Environmental Report, Trish Jerman: Trish has created an environmental report for USC. The Provost likes this idea and would like to link this report to the home page of the University’s website. Since timing is important with this issue, everyone please look over this report and make changes and additions where necessary BY TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21st and send to Trish at jerman@sc.edu

Implementation Plan, Trish Jerman: There have been differing ideas about the appropriate scope of the Implementation Plan, with some requesting specific goals and benchmarking opportunities, and others suggesting that broad goals are more appropriate. The draft implementation plan presented is our attempt at compromise.

Goal 1, Gene suggested the EAC support the establishment of the undergraduate environmental majors.
Goal 2, Trish asked whether the implementation plan should include specific goals or not? Gene suggested the individual departments should set their own goals with the encouragement and support of the EAC. Tom Syfert agreed that each department should set its own goals and report back their progress to the EAC. Trish reminded the committee that this was the idea behind the annual assessments from the very beginning – to collect information from each department regarding the environment and to track the progress of each department. Jim Sherry commented that the implementation of the goals and plans is often the issue. Gene offered the idea of using a slightly different approach – every year (at the same time each year) ask for strategic plans and goals related to the EAC’s goals from each department and mid-year (at the same time each year) ask for accomplishment and/or updates on those stated plans and goals. Elaine asked that representatives from each department look at last year’s assessment and this year’s new blank assessment and indicate which questions have the same answer as last year, which questions are no longer relevant, provide additional information that is already being collected by the department but has not been shared on the assessments in the past (especially information that the department representative feels should be continuously tracked in the future), and e-mail these suggestions to her at edurr@environ.sc.edu

Trish confirmed with Gene his idea that department representatives should be asked if they are doing things that are relevant to Goal 2 of the implementation plan which is “The University community will promote environmental sustainability by example – in operations and policies – conserving resources and minimizing impacts.”

Announcements:
SAGE, Kirsten Coleman: Bike/Walk to School Day is March 21st sponsored by SAGE and SC PIRG. There will be a kick-off event on March 1st.

SAGE is planning an Earth Day celebration on April 20th on Greene Street from 10am to 2pm. Anyone with suggestions for the day or other activities during the week should contact Kirsten at kirsten_coleman@yahoo.com

Kirstin Dow: On April 21st, Kirstin is planning to have Christine Ervin come to campus to present on green marketing issues. When plans are confirmed, more details will be forthcoming.

 Bruce Coull: Undergraduate majors have been created for environmental science and environmental studies. They are currently going through the lengthy review process and should be available in 2007.

Submitted by Elaine Durr