Minutes
Environmental Advisory Committee
February 24, 2000

Present: Aelion, Amiridis, Bass, Bohlke, Hunter, Lamb, Luna, Reynolds, Stevenson. Staff: Bixby, Buchanan, Jerman. Dr. Gwen Geidel, Associate Dean of the School of the Environment represented Bruce Coull and Karen McDonald represented SAGE.

Next Meeting: March 29, 11:30 AM, 107C Osborne (Lunch.)

General Commentary: The group was brought up to date on Dr. Coull’s health (generally good) and commentary sparked by the recent article about the committee in USC Times (get rid of the leaf blowers!)

Apology: We had asked Scott Reynolds to brief the group on environmental issues related to purchasing, but I (Trish) completely forgot to ask him to make his presentation. I’m so sorry! His handout will be attached to the hard copy of the minutes you receive.

Policy: Copies of the draft policy and accompanying report incorporating all comments received were distributed. The committee developed final language for the policy, and for the first several sections of the implementation document. Click here to view USC ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY STATEMENT. We’ll circulate a copy of the implementation document with changes discussed and accepted, as well as some new language in parts not yet discussed, prior to the next meeting.

Topics which sparked some discussion included the following:

- How will the policy be used, enforced? The general consensus was that we won’t know until the policy has been considered by the Provost, President and Trustees. Charles Stevenson pointed out there will be a fair amount of oversight, simply because of the make-up of the committee.
- Should the University require every course to include an environmental component (Alford) or should an environmental studies/science course be a part of general education requirements (Amiridis.) There was general agreement that the first option was impractical, and not likely to receive serious consideration. There was no consensus on the second option, but much discussion of the new ENVR 101 course, and success/failure of environmental general education requirements at other schools. The issue was carried over, and staff will research some other schools which have tried an environmental course as part of general education requirements.

Next meeting: At our next meeting, we’ll continue to finalize language and will hear briefly from University Leaders for a Sustainable Future (ULSF) representatives. ULSF plans to use USC as a test case for a methodology to assess change within a university. Lunch will be served.