Minutes
Environmental Advisory Committee
March 29, 2000

Present: Amiridis, Carpenter, Chaudry, Coull, Bohlke, Luna, Reynolds, Schermerhorn.
Staff: Bixby, Jerman. Jim Demarest, new USC Facilities Services Manager, and Wynn Calder of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future also attended.

Next Meeting: April 27, 2:00 PM, 107C Osborne

Jim Demarest was introduced and discussed his plans for operations on campus. He expressed particular interest in “operationalizing recycling on campus” and in doing a waste audit to facilitate analysis of our waste stream. He also mentioned the value of internship programs to “get students into the campus organization and give them real experiences.

Gene Luna raised the issue of cost/savings allocation...if costs related to conservation measures are incurred in one area, producing savings in another, can the savings be returned to the original cost center? If recycling saves money, can the money saved be applied to improving the recycling program? He also noted that the Committee itself had been a catalyst for action, adding that Housing was about to obtain new washing machines which would result in major water savings, “all stimulated by sitting at the table here.”

Wynn Calder described his organization and their role as outside evaluator for the Sustainable Universities Initiative. He noted that he’d read our draft policy and deemed it “one of the best in the country” in its draft form.

The committee then continued to discuss and modify the “implementation document” with some discussion of what form the final document would take. It was agreed that a formal vote on the first page (policy itself) would be taken at the April 27 meeting, so that the policy could be forwarded to Provost, President, and ultimately the Board of Trustees. Committee members felt that both documents should be shared with the Trustees, but that the second document could be sent later, and would be primarily for information.

At the April 17 meeting, we will:

(A) Vote on the policy document
(B) Continue working on the implementation/status/goals document (including, perhaps, settling on a name and clarifying its purpose!) We’ll go back to the skipped section on service, then move into Purchasing.

We look forward to seeing you next Thursday.