

Minutes
Environmental Advisory Committee
November 19, 1999

Present: Aelion, Alford, Amiridis, Bass, Bohlke, Carpenter, Chaudry, Coull, Hunter, Lamb, Luna, Reynolds, Stevenson, Swiegart. Staff: Bixby, Jerman. Guest: Derrick Huggins.

Next Meeting: January 12, 2:00 PM , 107C Osborne

Revised Goals attached. Send us your comments, additions, etc. to the Implementation section.

- **Transportation Initiatives:** Because several members expressed an interest in “continuing education” about environmental aspects of campus life, Derrick Huggins, Director of Parking and Vehicle Management, was asked to speak briefly to the group. Among the new initiatives mentioned were:
- New air conditioned shuttle busses, running on a more predictable schedule and route, and designed to facilitate perimeter parking. When the new shuttles are combined with “circumference shuttles” the anticipated wait for a ride could be as little as 3 minutes.
- Efforts to obtain SCE&G bus service to apartment complexes with large student populations. Students (large and small) can ride for free with student I.D.
- Derrick is looking into bike lockers on campus, to make it easier and safer for students and faculty to ride.

Comments included an offer by Michael Amiridis to facilitate discussions between Derrick and the chair of his department about the possibility of installing donated demonstration fuel cell technology in one of the new shuttles (with attendant possibilities for comparative research between fuel cell and traditional shuttle.) There was also considerable interest in various aspects of bicycle management on campus. Michelle Alford asked about adding bike racks to the shuttle busses. Bruce Coull shared an email from a new faculty member interested in increasing the number and distribution of bike racks on campus. Marge Aelion noted that bikes are often illegally locked to the handicapped access ramp behind Public Health, making it difficult for wheelchairs to get by. Gene Luna noted that Housing is responsible for bike racks in residence halls. There was discussion about responsibility for bikes/bike racks, and the general consensus was that USC should make “an institutional statement” about bikes, rather than letting various entities address the problem piecemeal. Bruce will ask Charlie Jeffcoat who is in charge and what our next step should be.

Gene Luna noted that Mr. Huggins was working hard to restore and expand a “very outdated system” and needed our support.

Draft Policy Statement: The group was asked to comment on the preliminary draft policy statement distributed via email. Bruce Coull noted that in addition to the moral and educational reasons to have a policy statement, there were practical reasons. He shared letters regarding litter on campus and the unavailability of recycled paper. There was some discussion of impediments imposed by state procurement regulations and the necessity for encouraging the state to make “green” purchasing easier.

Discussion of the draft led to consensus reflected in the attached revised document. Michael Amiridis noted that there are two main aspects of a university’s environmental impact: education and operations. While both are reflected in the document, education was under-represented and Michael says he has “some radical ideas” to propose. All were in agreement that the entire university community—not just students—needs to be educated, and all agreed with Stuart Hunter’s point that students have taken and will continue to take, an active part in altering the university (for the better.)

The group agreed that after the revised goals were distributed, they would contact Trish/Julie with suggestions, additions, etc. for the Implementation section. It is likely that background material will be included as an attachment to the first policy statement, but will be converted to an annual report of some sort and updated regularly.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30. Trish and Julie will notify members of the next meeting.