Minutes
Environmental Advisory Committee
December 6, 2000

Present: Aelion, Battenhouse, Bass, Chaudhry, Coull, Dickens, Hunter, Lampi, Luna, Pergolizzi, Reynolds, Russell, Sweigart. Staff: Bixby, Jerman, Buchanan, McWilliams. Visitor: Sara Davis, University of Mississippi

NEXT MEETING DATE: Will be announced as soon as possible. Our funder told us he's coming to meet with us on our original date.

Thanks to Liz Bohlke for providing lunch.

I. Training for staff
All agreed that custodial staff, both in Housing and Facilities Services need to be educated about recycling to make the program work. Gene Luna will take the lead, working with Laura Pergolizzi, in developing a training “package” for custodial staff. It was agreed that according staff “status and stature” was important, and that providing lunch was a good idea. The session should both train and give staff the opportunity to propose ideas about what will work best. Laura noted that staff should have the opportunity to “act” or practice, not just listen, and that literacy levels should be considered.

II. EMS expert
Ed Queveda, an attorney and EMS expert, will be coming to campus on December 13. Any EAC members who are interested are invited to join the group in 703 Byrnes at 1:30.

III. Permit Control/Liability Management
We discussed whether or not USC should have a central repository for permit and related information, and if so, where. There was agreement that the General Counsel's office should have a copy of all major permits as well as a “map” of designated contacts.

The consensus of the meeting was that everyone holding a “major” permit (air quality, waste management, etc.) should forward a copy to Bruce Coull for compilation in the legal office. However, since that time, we've been advised by a consultant that a better plan would be to house copies in the Health and Safety Office.

Although it was not clearly articulated, there seemed to be a distinction in people's minds between environmental permits and permits such as elevator licenses. Since the impetus for the
discussion was EPA’s interest in cracking down on universities, we assume the greatest need is to ensure that our environmental permits are in good shape.

IV. Goals
We continued to work on our status report, beginning with Goal 2. Julie Bixby distributed copies of the assessments prepared by graduate students in cooperation with individual departments, asking for comments and corrections. (Copies will be sent to those of you who missed the meeting.) At some point we will merge the assessments with our goals, creating a document which can serve as a benchmark as well as suggested guideline for future directions.

A number of additions were suggested for the “suggested actions” section of Objective 1: Conserve resources (waste reduction, recycling, energy and water use minimization.)

As amended, the suggested actions would include:
1. Minimize advertisements in bookstore bags
2. Reduce waste generation by 30% and increase recycling by 25% (over 2001 levels) by 2007.
3. Encourage/facilitate double-sided copying in administrative offices and library.
4. Increase coordination between recycling/Facilities Services and Housing.
5. Begin recycling program at athletic events.
6. Explore reverse vending machines, to see if they will make recycling in dorms easier.
7. Reduce reliance on disposables and focus on durability of equipment and furniture.
8. Continue efforts to establish in-vessel composting for yard and food waste, wax coated cups and plates, etc.
9. Shift large outdoor recycling bins to more obvious spot and consider a change in design.

At the next meeting we will move on to Objective 2: Minimize Negative Impacts of the University on the Environment and will also discuss relevant budget requests.