Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2001

In Attendance: Aelion, Amiridis, Bartlett, Bass, Chaudry, Coull, Cutter, Demarest, Hunter, Koman, Lamb, Lampl, Luna, McCoy, Pergolizzi, Reynolds, Staff: Jerman, McWilliams, Wiedner

Next Meeting: TBA - Late November or Early December

Dr. Coull opened the meeting by introducing Chris Bartlett, Representative from SAGE (Students Allied for a Greener Earth). Every committee member then introduced him/herself to Chris.

Committee action items in bold.

Discussion of EAC standing and members
- Dr. Coull asked the committee to consider inviting a representative from the Faculty Senate to join the committee.
- Stuart Hunter raised the issue that maybe the committee should leave “Advisory” out of the name, but Dr. Coull informed the group that the EAC is an advisory committee to the President of the University.
- Marjorie Aelion said that the EAC shouldn’t be a “senate committee” and the whole group agreed.
- Gene Luna raised the question of how to make the EAC a permanent USC committee. Dr. Coull said he would investigate possibilities.
- Dr. Coull mentioned that issues related to academia may be getting less attention on the committee, and invited agenda ideas from faculty.

Announcements:
- AC Moore Garden
  - There is a Rededication Ceremony on November 27, 2001 at 2 pm. All are invited.
  - Dr. Coull thanked: Jim Demarest and Charlie Jeffcoat for their services and help with the improvements; Dr. Kirstin Dow for her incredible work in heading up the efforts to improve the garden; and many Deans and SUI for contributing funds to make this project a success.

- Presentation on Campus
  - John DeGraaf, an award winning filmmaker and author of Affluenza: The All-Consuming Epidemic, will be giving a presentation on November 7, 2001 at 7:30pm in the Gambrell Hall Auditorium. Good opportunity for students to get extra credit by attending and writing a response.
  - If anyone is interested in hanging flyers around their department/building to inform the public about this event, please contact Trish Jerman.

- Issues of EMS, Environmental Review, and Education
  - Shealy McCoy gave a brief update of the EMS that is being implemented in the Environmental Health and Safety Department. There is a disconnect between EH&S and the other departments on campus. Once the EMS is implemented, the connection
will improve between EH&S and the other departments. All departments on campus should be incorporated into the EMS.

- Jim Demarest reminded the committee that an effort was made last year for a University Environmental Review. However, there is a need for a comprehensive environmental review for the whole university.
- Dr. Coull raised the question of how to educate every student, faculty member, and staff member on campus about USC’s environmental performance, and suggested thinking about integrating environmental issues into a senior seminar capstone class or developing an environmental practicum course. **Dr. Amiridis mentioned that Chemical Engineering can incorporate environmental issues into their Process Safety course. He will discuss this with Dr. van Brunt, who is responsible for teaching this course.**

**Waste Management Planning – Facility Services**

- Laura Pergolizzi gave an overview of the waste management practices at USC:
  - A few years ago, the Waste Management Dept. took over the management of the trash contract.
  - Last January, negotiated a new contract that includes getting weight-based information of the trash sent to landfill.
  - Waste management includes composting of yard waste and food waste. There is a pilot food waste composter on campus that can accommodate 100 pounds of preconsumer food waste per day. This compost is then used on campus.
  - USC must meet solid waste goals set by DHEC (25% recycling by 1997 and 30% recycling by 2005; 25% of all purchases should have recycled content).
  - USC is currently recycling 10% of waste (including computers) and 10% of all products purchased have recycled content.
  - About 275 tons per month of waste from USC is landfilled.
  - USC is required to report recycling rates by weight.
  - Though USC is falling short of the goals set by DHEC, USC has their full support.
  - Dr. Coull thanked Laura for bringing in funding from DHEC over the last few years for waste management projects.
  - USC is currently looking at idea of going “in-house” with trash collection to provide better service to campus for both trash and recyclables collection in order to realize savings. There would be an approximate 3-year payback, except for personnel.
  - The plan of the USC waste management is to have a split shift – trash collection at night and recyclables collection in the morning, and decrease the number of trash receptacles on campus.

**Energy Plan Update – Facilities Services**

- Implementation of Energy Policy
  - After Christmas breaks, electricians on campus will add/remove interior lighting. Jim Demarest stressed that these changes will not negatively impact our way of life on campus.
  - Lighting controls will be added in rooms.
  - Mr. Demarest informed the committee that 20-30% of electric consumption on campus is from lighting
  - Dr. Coull mentioned that conservation flyers will be put up to educate and create a culture shift in energy usage.
- Other education avenues: WRHA channel; residence hall programs; journalism class
could assist with project; SGA and SAGE working on a press conference as a response
to budget cuts and inform students about energy conservation; get fraternities and
sororities involved.

**Green Housing Update - Gene Luna**

- Dr. Luna discussed the new Green Housing – living & learning center. He described the
three parts of the project – good housing facilities, designed and operated with sustainable
principles, and facilitate a learning environment.
- This $32 million dorm will house 500 students (~200 first year students and ~300
upperclassmen). The learning center will include teaching spaces, seminar rooms, and
tutoring areas. Will possibly include a café/coffee shop.
- The building of the dorm has several aspects including: site review, water efficiency, effect
of building on energy and atmosphere, indoor environmental quality, and innovation/design
process.
- **Dr. Luna passed around a sign up sheet for those interested in participating in a list
serv discussion group for the green housing project; if you missed the meeting and are
interested, please contact him.**
- **The need for grants tying education to the living/learning center was stressed, so if
anyone knows of any potential grants (or has ideas for projects to link education to the
new facility) please contact Dr. Luna.**

Submitted by Halle McWilliams