Southwestern College Sustainability Council

April 17, 2015

Members present: Richard Cowlishaw, Jackson Lashier, Allyson Moon, Sara Weinert

1. Sara walked through the changes in how we print and copy at the college. Paper saving technologies include automatically printing double-sided and in black-and-white. Print jobs must be “released” from the printer through card-swipe, and all jobs can be traced to the user. (This is expected to prompt users to think about whether they actually need the job printed or not.) At this point, students are not being charged for printing but the usage will be tracked. Committee members discussed whether this could be a recruitment tool—perhaps with an allowance for student copies?
2. Rick reported that we had gotten behind on tracking greenhouse gas figures due to a change in contractors. Everything is being brought up to speed now, and the inventory should be done by May. We hope this will help make a smooth transition to the new president’s support of the Presidents’ Initiative.
3. Update on the minor in sustainability (Rick): It’s difficult to get an accurate number of how many students are in the minor because many students think they’re in the minor but haven’t formally declared it with the registrar. He estimates 5-10 students from several different academic areas are in the minor and Rick tries to make sure classes are offered in the proper sequence. “The minor isn’t easily managed in one academic area,” he says.
4. How can we discuss the importance of campus sustainability with the new president, and what role can the council play in talking about the mission of striving to live by and teach a sustainability way of life on our campus? (Sara): It’s a distinctive we can use in recruitment. (Allyson): Economics. We will save money if we are more sustainable.
5. A discussion followed on how we make sure Sodexo employees are on board with sustainability and recycling efforts.
6. Recycling containers are working well across campus and more will be added over the summer.
7. A discussion of the proposed sustainability center followed, with the thought of explaining the idea to the new president.

Minutes submitted by Sara Weinert