

**Green Committee Minutes**  
**Thursday, 10 January 2008**  
**2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. AS 103C**

Present: Dr. Denise Barkis Richter (Communications), Brad Chandler (Biology), Esther Rodriguez (Housekeeping), Greg Pasztor (Communications), Kim Corbin (Fine Arts), Irene Scharf (Library), Leandro Esparza (Student Activities), Mary-Ellen Jacobs (English)

1. The first meeting of the college's Green Committee was called to order by Dr. Denise Barkis Richter who is chairing the group. Denise led a lively discussion in which committee member suggested ways that the campus could become more "green."

2. Green ideas from Denise:

a) Initiate a campus-wide **information campaign** to include a slogan such as "Go Green!" and a flyer which could be posted at PAC and could be distributed to take home. Denise provided each committee member with a sample flyer of tips to promote green living from a recent issue of the *National Geographic Kids' Magazine*. She also distributed the pamphlet "Drive Clean Across Texas" and presented each committee member with a roomy Whole Foods shopping bag to use instead of "paper or plastic."

b) Plan a **campus environmental event** either on Earth Day (22 April) or in conjunction with PACFest (24 April). This would be an opportunity to provide information and handout free promotional materials such as CPS switch plates which say: "Last person to leave turn out the lights."

c) Encourage **carpooling**, van pooling, biking, walking and taking the bus.

d) Reactivate the college's **Earth Club**.

3. Green ideas from Kim Corbin:

a) **Compost** grass and tree trimmings (campus grounds keeping and the Horticultural Department).

b) Encourage consistent paper **recycling** across campus including the placement of a recycling collection point for paper in the vicinity of the GE building to make it easier for housekeeping staff to recycle. In the past, money from recycling paper has funded 4-8 \$50.00 book scholarships.

c) Investigate the feasibility of **plastic/aluminum recycling**. Vendors could provide help with recycling receptacles. Trash cans could be eliminated from classrooms; recycling centers for paper, aluminum, plastic, and glass could be located at outside collection points around campus.

d) Determine whether the **cooking oil and grease** used by the campus cafeteria is recycled.

4. Green ideas from Greg Pasztor:

a) Host an **environmental film day**.

b) Sponsor a **campus colloquy** in which an environmental book such as Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* is read in classes across disciplines (e.g., English, science, economics, history, horticulture, etc.): "Green Across the Curriculum."

c) Use the PAC **website** as a venue to increase green awareness.

d) Encourage **wildscaping** on campus. Establish “No Mow Zones” planted with wild flowers which could be left untouched to preserve/protect the natural habitats which exist on the campus grounds.

e) Contact CPS to conduct a **campus energy audit**.

f) Consider **retro-fitting buildings** to make them greener. Because this strategy was used by UTSA, their architects may be able to assist us.

5. Green ideas from Irene Scharf:

a) Contact **other ACC colleges** to find out their strategies for going green.

b) Promote a good **educational program** with environmental awareness as a theme (e.g., speakers, service learning, common readings/activities across the curriculum, etc.)

c) Sponsor a **candidates’ forum** which focuses on individuals’ commitment to the environment/sustainability.

d) Encourage the **purchase of recycled products** at the district level (e.g., cafeteria products that are biodegradable; book store’s use of recycled materials).

6. Green ideas from Leandro Esparza:

a) Identify the environmental strategies being used by **other colleges and universities**.

b) Develop an outdoor ed program featuring **organized nature hikes** to nearby Mitchell Lake and the Medina River.

c) Encourage **30-minute campus walks** to promote health and fitness. Better (i.e., eye-level) signage is needed around campus to mark the walk paths.

7. Green ideas from Brad Chandler:

a) **Compost** yard waste, animal waste from vet tech and food waste from the cafeteria.

b. Implement strategies to **avoid water waste**:

\*Rain sensors on automatic sprinklers.

\*Place sprinkler heads correctly to water grass not the pavement.

\*Use common sense when programming sprinkler times.

\*Sprinkler system can be linked to city’s gray water pipeline. Need to avoid sidewalks when using gray water.

\*Create a rainwater capture system on campus.

c. Eliminate **phone books**. Even a 50% reduction would save trees. Many individuals on campus do not use their city phone books.

d. Encourage **sustainable building** using solar power.

8. Other ideas discussed by the committee:

a. Provide **naturalist training** for the head of grounds keeping or any staff involved in grounds keeping.

b. Explore college **certificate programs in eco-tourism/nature-tourism**, a kind of travel experience which is increasingly in demand.

c. Contact **nature/environmental experts** to visit campus and share information (Iliana at Mitchell Lake/Audubon connection; Daniel Silva at Medina River; Malcolm Beck on composting)

9. Specific committee tasks:

- a. Research information on Earth Day activities. **(Irene)**
  - b. Research the green strategies currently being used by our sister ACC campuses and other colleges/universities. **(Irene)**
  - c. Contact AACOG for information on carpooling/ride-sharing. **(Denise)**
  - d. Collaborate with Kinesiology to improve campus walking trail and organize nature hikes. May want to create fliers about birds/flora/fauna on campus. **(Leandro)**
  - e. Investigate disposal of cafeteria grease/oil. **(Kim)**
  - f. Contact Michael at SAWS to find out if free trees could be provided for PACFEST or could be donated for a campus tree memorial. **(Greg)**
  - g. Design flyers/posters for Go Green! information and campus announcements. events, etc. Contact Vince, PAC PR, about the Go Green! campaign. **(Denise & Kim)**
  - h. Act as committee secretary. **(Mary-Ellen)**
  - i. Encourage genuine institutional commitment by creating a written proposal outlining the committee's vision/ideas and presenting this information to President Guzman. **(Greg, Denise, Mary-Ellen)**
  - j. Invite other key members of the campus community to join the committee (e.g., Kirk Williams & Weldon Riggs, Horticulture; Ramon Hernandez, Kinesiology; grounds keeping staff; Larry Jackson, CE). **(Denise)**
10. The meeting adjourned at 4:00. The next committee meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, 7 February at 2:00 in AS 103C.**

*Submitted by: Mary-Ellen Jacobs*