

Go Green! ;Viva Verde! Committee Meeting Minutes

Dec. 4, 2008, 1 p.m.

AS 103C

Attendees: Anna CohenMiller, ESOL; Brad Chandler, Biology; Russ Wagner, ESOL; Irene Dennis, Continuing Education; Kim Corbin, Fine and Performing Arts/Speech; Camille Fiorillo, Library; and Denise Barkis Richter, Communications.

Denise opened the meeting shortly after 1 p.m. and called for approval of the Nov. 6, 2008, minutes. The committee approved the minutes.

Denise met with Dr. Stacey Johnson, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Dr. Mike Flores, Vice President of College Services, on Nov. 11 to bring them up to speed on the Go Green! ;Viva Verde! Committee's work. Stacey and Mike were serving as interim co-president while President Guzman was on leave. At this meeting, they reported that the American College and University President's Climate Commitment team, which the chancellor has committed all five colleges to join, had sent them a survey to document Palo Alto College's green initiative for seven areas:

- Establishing a policy that all new campus construction will be built to at least the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Silver standard or equivalent. ____ Yes, we have done/will do this. (Space for details.)
- Adopting an energy-efficient appliances purchasing policy requiring purchase of ENERGY STAR certified products in all areas for which such ratings exist. ____ Yes, we have done/will do this. (Space for details.)
- Establishing a policy of offsetting all greenhouse gas emissions generated by air travel paid for by our institution. ____ Yes, we have done/will do this. (Space for details.)
- Encouraging use of and provide access to public transportation for all faculty, staff, students and visitors at our institution. ____ Yes, we have done/will do this. (Space for details.)
- Within one year of signing this document, begin purchasing or producing at least 15 percent of our institution's electricity consumption from renewable resources. ____ Yes, we have done/will do this. (Space for details.)
- Establishing a policy or a committee that supports climate and sustainability shareholder proposals at companies where our institution's endowment is invested. ____ Yes, we have done/will do this. (Space for details.)
- Participating in the Waste Minimization component of the national RecycleMania competition, and adopt three or more associated measures to reduce waste. ____ Yes, we have done/will do this. (Space for details.)

Denise referred Stacey and Mike to the Go Green! Viva Verde! webpage www.accd.edu/pac/vivaverde for information to complete the survey through meeting minutes, subcommittees reports, and our campus' Declaration of Environmental Sustainability. Denise congratulated the committee for being ahead of the curve.

Denise asked Stacey and Mike to designate an employee to help coordinate the campus' recycling program. The request was approved, and a 15-hour per week Special Events Supervisor will be hired on a pilot basis. Kim Corbin worked with Mike's office to post the position on peoplelink. Dean Elizabeth Tanner will serve as the position's budget manager.

Anna reported that she submitted a letter to President Ana "Cha" Guzman requesting that an energy audit of the campus be performed as soon as possible in the new year. She had not yet heard back from Cha's office. Anna was encouraged to send the request to Stacey and Mike since Cha had been out. Brad asked the committee who pays for the college's energy needs, the college or the district? In other words, does the district show the college a copy of its monthly energy bill to confirm that it is correct? Or, does the college budget a certain amount for energy expenses and pay its own bill? If the college budgets its own energy expenses, then it would seem that we may choose how to designate our budget, like making sure that 15 percent (or more) of our institution's electricity consumption is from renewable resources. Denise said that she would e-mail Robert Triana to find out.

PACfest is April 23, 2009. Denise found a "Home Energy Survey" that California's Energy Commission developed that we can use for our reusable bag giveaway. (People have to fill out the survey before they get a free bag.) Respondents will check Always, Sometimes or Never for the following questions:

1. We turn off lights, computers, televisions, radios, games, etc. when they are not in use. We turn off the lights when we leave a room.
2. We turn down the heat or air conditioning when we are not home or at night.
3. We use Energy Star® appliances (refrigerators, dishwashers, washer, clothes dryer, etc.) and electronics (cordless phone, DVD player, computer printer, etc.).
4. We run the washer, dryer and dishwasher only when we have a full load.
5. When possible, we hang our clothes outside to dry.
6. Our water heater is set low (close to 120° F).
7. We take 5-minute showers.
8. We use fluorescent light bulbs or lighting rated by Energy Star®.
9. We use a microwave or toaster oven for cooking small amounts of food.
10. We use rechargeable batteries.
11. We check the furnace and the air conditioner to be sure they work well and the filters are clean.

12. The faucets are in working order (no drips or leaks).

The committee thought that it might be a good idea to have the 12 points above printed onto a refrigerator magnet (carbon footprint design) to be given away during PACfest as a permanent reminder. Camille will research green giveaway items.

Kim reported that the Recycling Subcommittee hosted a taco breakfast for the college's Recycling Volunteers on Dec. 3 to distribute signage and explain the program. Green recycling containers have now been placed in every classroom, lab and work area on campus. These green containers are for empty glass, empty plastic and empty metal recyclable items. Paper will continue to be recycled in gray bins in offices, labs and work areas. Cardboard should be placed to the side of the paper recycling bins for pick up by Housekeeping. Two cardboard dumpsters will eventually be placed on campus by Greenstar. One cardboard only dumpster will be behind the Student Center, and one will be behind the Library.

Kim also reported that she was going to meet with both shifts of the Housekeeping staff on Dec. 4 to explain the campus' new recycling program. Every recycling container (gray or green) should have a trash can right next to it. Otherwise, trash will be thrown into the recycling container. Also, gray containers for paper should NOT have any liners. Only trash cans and the green recycling containers should have liners. Aside from the signage that should be above/on every green container, posters detailing what's recyclable and what's not will be hung in buildings throughout campus to educate students, faculty and staff about our new recycling program. Greenstar was to deliver fifty 93-gallon toters (like the ones used by the City of San Antonio's recycling program) by Dec. 12 that Recycling Volunteers will use to collect paper from gray bins. (Empty plastic, empty metal and empty glass are to be placed in clear plastic bags to the side of the green toters.) Once the Recycling Volunteers have collected their building's recyclable items, Housekeeping/Facilities will take each building's items to one of the nine Greenstar pick-up locations on campus.

Volunteers are needed the first week of the spring semester to provide scoop on the recycling program at various information tables around campus. Contact Kim at kcorbin@mail.accd.edu if you are willing to devote a block of time.

Denise called the meeting to a close shortly after 2 p.m. and thanked the committee members for their continued work. The committee's next meeting will be on Thursday, Jan. 8, at 1:30 p.m., location TBA.

Respectfully submitted by Denise Barkis Richter, Ph.D.