Meeting began at 3PM in Wigley Administration Conference Room 239

The following Committee Members were present:

Michael Cain  
Student Association

Nachelle Swift  
Student Association

Ryan Bechel  
Student Association

Medea Myhra  
MN Association of Professional Employees

Kim Rademaker  
AFSCME Local 638

Scott Fee  
IFO Faculty Association

Monika Antonelli  
IFO Faculty Association

Erica Johnson  
MSUAASF (Assn. of Admin. & Svc. Faculty)

Barry Wilkins  
Middle Management Association (MMA)

Louis Schwartzkopf  
Emeriti Faculty

Mike Lexvold  
Facilities Management (Ex-officio, Nonvoting)

Rick Straka  
Vice President Financial Management

David Cowan  
Observer

Helen Walters  
Secretary (Temporary for first meeting)

Rick Straka welcomed the committee and introductions were completed.

This new committee was encouraged to proceed using the “Charter” approved by the University’s Administrative Cabinet and President Richard Davenport.

Discussion was made for choice of focus by the committee on upcoming projects.

Topics of discussion included:

- Funding options
- Development of campus sustainability for non-motorized vehicle roadways - Multi-mode of transport
- Specialty area across campus for showers, lockers, for individuals that utilize alternative means of travel to freshen up
- Integrate non-motorized vehicle options – fast lane for those traveling by alternative means
- Choice of helpful landscaping for travelers – bikers, skate board users, etc.
- Be “green” with newsletters – unlimited access via e-mail listing – opt-in mail list
- Energy efficient options for the campus – lean toward “campus of the future”

Discussion of committee officers was made. The group suggested Co-Chairs would be helpful with one student member and one voting member holding office. Request for volunteers was made. Erica Johanson volunteered to be a Co-Chair as voting member representative and Ryan Bechel volunteered to be by co-chair representing Student Association. Rick Straka made a motion to have Erica Johanson and Ryan Bechel as Co-Chairmen of the Environmental Committee, seconded by Troy Schmidt. Motion Carried.

All committee members received a copy of the Campus Sustainability Plan and the “charter” and were requested to review these prior to the next meeting. Members were asked to research other campus state-wide, such as Gustavus and Morris and discuss what their Environmental Committees already have in process such as options on recycling or rapid transportation. Statement was made that Bemidji already has a Sustainability position on their campus, perhaps discuss with them the direction offered to their campus from this position.

Discussion on present advancement of Minnesota State University, Mankato Non-Smoking Campus Policy was made including the request for possible options for smokers or how enforcement of new policy was in process. The Minnesota Clean Air Act does not allow for the campus to have a “smoking room”. Rick stated that violators will politely be reminded that we are a non-smoking campus and requested to following the guidelines and discouraged our University staff and students to go onto close by private property or risk a trespassing warning.
Student fees would be an option for assistance in the implementation of environmental projects. Presently, a “green transportation” fee at .75 cents per credit hour is being discussed on campus, but concerns of the political ramification to have all students pay this when not all students will use it was mentioned. The committee will also look into the one time funding plans that involve sustainability for Academic Affairs and how they could assist in this.

The Committee discussed the times of future meetings. Once a month meetings will be set up with sub-committees meeting additional times as needed. It was decided that the committee will next meet on February 29, 2012 at 3PM. Room location will be looked into for possibly CSU 203 or 204 by Kim Rademacker. Discussion on having the committee meet every 4 weeks vs once a month was tabled.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Walters