Sustainability Committee
Minutes – February 13, 2014  2:00 – 3:00

Present: Norman Takeya, Cynthia Smith, Bill Becker, Mavis Hernandez, Owen Miyamoto, Shidong Kan, Marcus Heresa, Glenn Young, Owen Miyamoto, Doug Boettner, Oscar Diaz, Pat Gooch

Minutes from January meeting
Minutes were approved with no changes

Sustainability Policy
It was announced that the Board of Regents approved a Sustainability Policy. The draft Honolulu Community College Sustainability Policy, directly aligned with this system policy, was briefly discussed. It will be reviewed by administration and committee members were asked to review as well for discussion at the April meeting.

Committee Focus Tracks
The current plan is to have three tracks the committee will pursue: Students, Operations and Education. Committee members should think about where they want to prioritize their efforts.

Students
There have been no students stepping up to start a Sustainability Club yet, will continue to seek interested students this spring and again in the fall.

Operations
Discussion ensued regarding the role and obligations of Johnson Controls based on its contract with HCC. Clarification was provided regarding the shade structure. It was explained that the decision did entail some consultation and there are educational uses intended. The campus needs to be more fully informed of what this structure is and how it is to benefit and be used by the campus community. This information can go on the Sustainability website.

It was decided representatives from JCI would be asked to come to speak to the committee to clarify its contractual responsibilities and goals for reducing costs and usage. What can JCI do, and what is to be provided to the campus (e.g. informational programs) needs to be clarified, including intended timelines.

Education
It was reported that the progress in creating an S designation at a system level has not moved but there is a Sustainability degree program at Maui College and Kapiolani CC has created a process to certify an S designation on its campus. We will look closely at their hallmarks to align our efforts.
Norman will present a February 25 workshop on campus about green practices; it will be taped by ETC.

The possibility of Sustainability classes being taught non-credit and/or through PCATT was discussed. The relationship between these and JCI intended efforts needs to be clarified.

Website
Norman is working on the creation of a HCC Sustainability website.

AASHE and STARS
The discussion continued regarding whether HonCC should join AASHE (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education). It was emphasized this means joining a national membership community and includes use of their ranking system for campus performance, as well as access to information to help in building curriculum. Currently Kauai, UH Hilo, UH Maui and UH West Oahu are members. It appears to be a worthwhile organization to join. A few members volunteered to do more investigation into what is entailed in membership (including cost) to report at the next meeting. Another member volunteered to also look at obligations and benefits of joining STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System).

Sustainability Conference
Norman reminded committee members that the UH System Sustainability Conference would take place March 13 – March 15, and reminded those representing the campus to register.

Recycling
Marcus [Norman, can you indicate his title] informed of the group of ongoing efforts at Kapolei High School to engage students in promoting sustainable efforts. As a senior project, students are design and constructing recycling a and composting bins for the community. They design structures for internal use, external use and cafeteria uses. The possibility of having them construct more for HCC will be investigated. Then we will need to determine who is responsible for emptying them – if not a specific Sustainability club, then perhaps other student clubs can take on this role. It was mentioned that perhaps JCI can help us in these efforts, in particular in gaging the cost and environmental impact of recycling efforts.

It was discussed that the committee should help promote better practices on other issues, such as recycling phone books.

The need for more education to promote transformative changes (rather than just small, piecemeal efforts) was emphasized. The promotion and integration of a sustainable mindset is needed, perhaps requiring more visibility for the group and its efforts – e.g. an identity, a logo etc. Perhaps this is something Communication Arts students could undertake.

Next Meeting
The next meeting is scheduled for April 11 at 2:00 [Amendment: that meeting was reschedule for April 3].