

GCI Minutes, 9/7/2011: amended; appended items are in red

In attendance: Chris Podeschi, John Hintz, Anna Reeves, Jean Downing, Natasha Whipple, Sandra Kehoe-Forutan, Robert Brennan, Becca Vernon, Eli Tome, Eve Stuarsky ? (my apologies), Don Hess, Ellen Keating, John Holtzman, Jeff Brunskill, Vince Di Loretto, Safa Saracoglu

Minutes:

1. Eli Tome: introduced the HOPE organization
 - Will meet every other Monday at 9:00 in the LLC room in Columbia Hall (beginning 9/12)
2. John Holtzman: Energy and Environmental Coordinator on Campus:
 - In charge of energy initiatives at BU:
 - Introduced the programs he is involved with, e.g.,
 - Improving the insulating on the steam system
 - Update outdated lighting systems in a number of dorms and other buildings
 - Voluntary computer shutdowns during off-hours (John thinks there is a great opportunity here for the GCI to help get the word out on this and get people on board)
 - New BU Master Plan will include an energy component (?)
 - Central heating plant coal-fired boiler replacement/renovation
 - John mentioned how Ford MC has lowered their energy costs by implementing a centralized shutdown system; discussed the possibility of something similar for our campus
 - He also agreed to look into what other universities are doing to cut their energy costs
3. Safa: BU 2011 Theme:
 - Gave an overview of the “consumption” theme & related events
4. Jeff: General GCI updates:
 - Friday farmers market back up and running
 - Spring events:
 - February teach-in
 - Earth Day event
 - Ben Franklin solar array
 - GCI List-serve creation
 - John H: possibility of hosting an agriculture/hunger symposium (Don Hess, Chris Podeschi, and Jean Downing said they would be interested joining in on the organization team for that, along with George Davis from biology, who John reported is also interested)
 - Budget: \$5,000 per year (fiscal year, about \$3,000 left)
 - Jean suggested we look into getting a Husky Fund, over which we’d have fewer restrictions over how it was spent

- Safa nominated Jean to look into this, and it was seconded and Jean gladly accepted taking on this task
 - Jeff informed us that the farmers market \$\$ is going to HOPE, and Jean suggested we talk about that again soon
5. Votes:
- a. Proposed GCI webpage:
 - Unanimous vote in favor of spending some money (~\$300) to develop a GCI webpage
 - b. Chris P.: Eco-Art Contest (how to pay for better awards):
 - No vote needed at this point, until we figure out the status of a possible Husky fund
6. Jeff B: talked about starting up a sustainable agriculture seminar and film series
7. Safa: announced a 10/26 showing of 'Water Wars' at the Kuster Auditorium