

GCI Minutes, 10/5/2011

In attendance: Chris Podeschi, John Hintz, Anna Reeves, Jean Downing, Ellen Keating, John Holtzman, Jeff Brunskill, Vince Di Loretto, Safa Saracoglu, Claire Lawrence, Jennifer Whisner*

*I know I am missing at least one name from this sheet. My apologies to whoever was left off. Please email me if you were there so that you can be added to the attendance.

Minutes:

1. introductory announcements (Jeff Br)
2. Jeff B: solar demonstration site:
 - said that the solar site (near Ben Franklin) might be a bit more expensive than previously thought. They might need to find a couple thousand more dollars to make it happen.
 - Probably won't go with the RO water vending machine (b/c similar machines are already being installed for free at various locations on campus)
 - Looking for ideas for having something novel that is powered by the array (one idea is a reverse vending machine)
3. Columbia Conservation District Cleanup Dates
 - Screen a water documentary (on Oct 26 and Nov 9)
 - 11/17: 7:00 pm presentation by a rep from Trout Unlimited on the Marcellus Shale
4. Jeff & Vince: Hartline Recycling
 - Vince: one goal is to try to capture more of the recyclables that go into the classroom trash bins in the recycling stream
5. John Holtzman: early xmas gift for HOPE
 - Got some "modlets" (programming energy-efficient plugs) for HOPE to use (whether as part of their energy-efficient dorm life contest or not)
6. Jeff B: extending the farmers' market.
 - Ellen from Dancing Hen Farm asked whether or not Don Hess should talk on 10/14 since it's a reading day. Jeff talked about rescheduling this.
7. Jeff B: Columbia County Conservation District:
 - Jeff asked if someone could take the lead to work with Heather Almer on figuring out how to get groups of students out on CCCD-sponsored cleanups
 - Safa volunteered to be the GCI liaison for this
8. Safa: use of Flex cards:
 - Flex cards (one kind: Husky Gold) can be used for stuff in addition to food service (University Store, vending mach., etc.)
 - Safa's idea was to see if it was possible to get downtown restaurants to accept the Husky Gold card (to encourage downtown business patronage, improve town/gown relations etc.)
 - End result? Safa talked with Jim McCormack about it, and Jim said that the businesses would have to be willing to get docked around 10% for the use of the card (compared to about a 3% charge for Visa/MC). Jim's thought is that this won't be very appealing to businesses, especially when they can just ask the students to use credit cards instead.
 - Safa asked 2 businesses about their interest:
 - Bloomin Bagels: was receptive to the idea, said he thought this was industry standard for similar setups in other college towns
 - Sakuntala: said they'd do it if everyone was doing it

- Safa wants to explore this further to see how much interest really is out there and whether and how many businesses would commit to this program
 - There was considerable questioning about whether pursuing this should actually fall under the GCI purview (i.e., is it a campus greening project?)
 - Agreed to table the item until next meeting
9. John Holtzman:
- Asking if the GCI would pursue the possibility of implementing a computer shutdown system on our campus, up to and including the possibility of getting it to be an official University policy (even as a voluntary program)