

## Green Campus Initiative Meeting – Minutes – October 19<sup>th</sup> 2011

**Location:** Schweiker Room

**Time:** 12:30

**Attendees:** Chris Podeschi, Tim Pelton, Jeff Brunskill, John Holtzman, Don Hess, Anna Reeves, Natasha Whipple

### 1. Announcements

- a. Solar Project – The bids are in for the solar array that will be built on the south side of Ben Franklin hall before the end of the fall semester. MARIANO CONSTRUCTION, INC. won the bid.
  - b. The final farmers market of the semester will be held on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Don Hess will speak at 1 pm following the market (location – outside at the market). He will discuss the economics of small scale and large scale farming, and nutrition. Please encourage students/faculty to attend.
  - c. Students participated in work days with the Columbia County Conservation District the past two Saturdays. Attendance was not as high as we hoped due to reading day and other conflicts. Future work days are scheduled for the next two Saturdays. Contact Safa Saracoglu for additional information.
  - d. The Columbia County Conservation District will sponsor the following upcoming talks:
    - i. CCCD Kids event on Saturday Oct 22nd - "Pick up with Pickles"
    - ii. Blue Gold: World Water Wars (Oct 26th and Nov 9th)
    - iii. November 17th, David Sewalk - Trout Unlimited's PA Marcellus Shale Field Organize
  - e. We are developing a GCI webpage. The site will be posted at <http://organizations.bloomu.edu/gci/>. We agreed to start developing the page using the standard BU template. Once the website is up and running we will hire a student to develop a unique GCI format.
  - f. HOPE Updates:
2. **Don Hess - Grant Opportunities for Next Year** – Don Hess proposed that we pursue an external grant from the Northeast Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program to support a collaborative agriculture/sustainability project on campus. We discussed the prospect of developing a small farm plot on campus (or nearby) that would be managed by students under the supervision of local farmers and SOLVE. The plot would produce food for campus and the farmers market. We also discussed several other related projects. We decided to communicate with other faculty and staff on campus and in the local community to find others who might be interested in the project. We will continue the discussion next meeting.
3. **Chris Podeschi - Eco-Art Contest** – We will use the Husky Fund to pay for the prizes for the 2011/2012 eco-art contest. Also, we decided to put the winning pieces in a glass case in the library each year until a suitable permanent location can be found on campus.
4. **GCI Sponsored Talk on Regional Flooding (Corbin/Brunskill/Whisner):** The committee approved a proposed talk by Dr. Jennifer Whisner and a member of the Susquehanna River Basic Commission on regional flooding issues. The talk will be held in early /mid November.
5. **GCI Sponsored Talk on Global Warming (Pelton, Downing)**
- a. We have contacted Al Gore's group which has now trained a large number of speakers who can go out to present the latest version of "An Inconvenient Truth" to those who request a speaker.
  - b. We have received word that they are working on that for us and we have been able to get space in the Union for Global Climate Change programming on November 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - c. We are hoping to hear soon that we have confirmation on that speaker and can then reach out to groups such as Penn Future and the Sierra Club to build additional programming around the event.

6. **Update - Teach-In on Natural Gas Drilling:** We are working to identify potential speakers for a February/March seminar on natural gas drilling. Several potential speakers have been identified – preliminary contacts have been made. John Holtzman will contact the DEP to find interested speakers. Chris Podeschi will investigate speakers who can comment on the sociological aspects of gas drilling. Please contact Jeff Brunskill if you are interested in helping.

7. **Update? - Central Shutdown of Computers (Holtzman/Diloretto)** – This will be discussed next meeting.

8. **Update? - Flex Cards (Saracoglu)** - This will be discussed next meeting.

9. **Update? - Recycling in Hartline (Diloretto)** - This will be discussed next meeting.