



Sustainability Task Force

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH, Co-Chair

Tom Newman, MD, MPH, Co-Chair

MINUTES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

PRESENT: Elena Fuentes-Afflick (Co-Chair), Tom Newman (Co-Chair), Christian Apfel, Peter Bacchetti, Paul Brakeman, Laura Esserman, Gwen Essex, Stan Glantz, Paul Green, Steve Hulley, BJ Miller, Norm Oppenheimer, Rossana Segovia-Bain, Arianne Teherani, Torsten Wittmann

ABSENT: Sheila Brear, Christine Cheng, Gurpreet Chopra, Christina Foushee, Merlin Larson, Karen McCune, Susan Ryan, Tracey Woodruff

GUESTS: None.

The Sustainability Task Force meeting was called to order on May 22, 2008 at 3:35 p.m.

The minutes of April 15, 2008 were approved.

Co-Chairs' Report

Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sustainability

Tom Newman and Ellen Weber will serve on the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sustainability.

UCSF Earth Fest 2008

Tom Newman and Torsten Wittmann hosted a table at the Earth Fest held on May 15, 2008

UC/CSU/CCC 7th Annual Sustainability Conference

Tom Newman will moderate a lab session at the conference.

Reports from Subcommittees

The facilitators reported on the progress to-date of each subcommittee. The discussion included the following issues that apply to all subcommittees:

- Identify a small project and a large project, i.e. something small that people can do every day as well as a larger goal.
- Gather and prioritize information to transmit to those who can influence policy and request changes at UCSF.
- Find out what is already going on at UCSF to support existing projects or advocate for needed projects.
- Describe goals in terms of economics to support arguments.
- Create a cadre of "green leaders" on campus to help lead.
- Develop a certification of green practices for the health sciences.
- Improve publicity of current sustainability efforts to catalyze action on the part of the faculty and other campus people.

- The public face of the message is important. Would Liz Blackburn or Stan Pruisner to be willing to be the voice of these changes?
- What about making a 'green spotlight' to focus on specific issues?
- Could this be included in the messages from leadership (Laret, Bishop, etc.)?

Campus-Wide Issues – Gwen Essex

- Encourage sustainability at conferences and other places outside UCSF where faculty can have an impact.
 - Encourage and support programs such as WebEx conferencing, etc. as an alternative to travel
 - Ask UC or UCSF to consider cost for travel-related carbon offsets a legitimate travel expense.
- Improve access to recycling at UCSF.
- Create a catalyst fund (like the Harvard [Green Campus Loan Fund](#)) used to offset initial investments in sustainability projects; consider funding it as a local alternative to buying carbon offsets from outside vendors
- Gather existing data about resource use at UCSF to calculate opportunities for cost savings and improvements in sustainability. Where data do not exist, consider studies (e.g., randomized trials) with certain interventions using achievable metrics such as turning off the lights, computers, etc.

Clinical Activities

- Reduction of waste will also result in cost reduction in the clinical setting.
 - Could there be a cost-analysis of sterilization of durable equipment versus using disposable equipment?
 - There is no economic incentive to re-use because clinical costs are currently passed on to insurance companies.
 - Review Kaiser Permanente's and Global Health and Security Initiative progress on this issue.
- Rossana Segovia-Bain and Laura Esserman will join this Subcommittee.
- This group should work very closely with the Medical Center. Robert Hunn, Director of Safety, UCSF Medical Center is in charge of the Medical Center Working group.

Education/Curriculum – Arianne Teherani

- Identify sustainability issues to include in the curriculum at UCSF.
 - A Nursing-Medicine one-unit elective on environmental health issues already exists. Advocate for that course to be required and for more courses to be created.
 - One of the proposed Pathways to Discovery is intended for leadership. That Pathway could be an opportunity to bring sustainability to the curriculum.
 - Work with the Committee on Educational Policy to promote sustainability in the curriculum.
 - Interprofessional education could be a good mechanism for bringing this information to the students.
 - Experts in this area include Gina Solomon, MD, MPH. Another good source of information is the [Union of Concerned Scientists](#).
- Consider which UCSF population to target: faculty or students.
 - Faculty will be at UCSF longer than students and will likely have a greater impact in the long term. Online education is a good tool to educate and improve awareness for faculty.
 - Students at UCSF may be more motivated to promote and implement sustainability at UCSF than faculty.

Laboratories – Torsten Wittmann

- Educate people in the laboratories about what can be recycled and what can be switched off overnight.
 - Short-term goal: make a poster about what can be done to reduce their impact.
 - Long-term goal: advocate for facilities and other infrastructure at UCSF to support sustainable changes.
 - Gwen Essex will call Sunset Scavenger to learn more.
- Energy Star appliances: Is there any practice at UCSF to give rebates for buying Energy Star appliances? Could UCSF partner with PG&E on this?
 - For energy savings like freezers, it's going to take face-to-face interactions to encourage transitioning to Energy Star, recycling of the old equipment, handing out the timers to turn off equipment at night, etc.

Organize for the Work of the Task Force

- Create an executive list of recommendations, support the recommendations with ideas about how to implement them and people to implement.
- Create overarching themes and make sure that each subcommittee addresses each of the themes for their topic.
- Ask each subcommittee to draft their portion of the report.
- An oversight person will merge the four documents into a single document.

At the next meeting, the Task Force will review the report from each subcommittee, particularly to identify logical, easily implemented changes. Other ideas will be longer-term goals. The Task Force will work to finalize the report by the end of July.

Co-Chair Newman adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.