



Sustainability Task Force

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

Tom Newman, MD, MPH, Co-Chair

MINUTES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

PRESENT: Elena Fuentes-Afflick (Co-Chair), Tom Newman (Co-Chair), Peter Bacchetti, Christine Cheng, Paul Green, Steve Hulley, Norm Oppenheimer, Arianne Teherani

ABSENT: Christian Apfel, Paul Brakeman, Sheila Brear, Gurpreet Chopra, Madhavi Dandu, Durba Dutta, Laura Esserman, Gwen Essex, Christina Foushee, , Merlin Larson, Tim McCalmont, Karen McCune, BJ Miller, Susan Ryan, Rossana Segovia-Bain, , Ellen Weber, Tracey Woodruff

GUESTS: None

The Sustainability Task Force meeting was called to order on July 24, 2008 at 3:32 p.m.

The minutes of June 26, 2008 were approved.

Co-Chairs' Report – Elena Fuentes-Afflick

Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sustainability (CACS)

Elena Fuentes-Afflick serves on the CACS Vision Subcommittee and hopes they will complete their work soon. She will report back to the Task Force with the outcome.

UC/CSU/CCC Sustainability Conference

Tom Newman will attend the conference and will report back to the Task Force.

Reports from Subcommittees

Each subcommittee report includes a recommendation that each subject have a website and a staff person to oversee the work on that issue. The website could help centralize monitoring of sustainability programs as well as support for programs, both monetary and otherwise.

The members' discussion included the following points:

Clinical

- An important component of reducing the impact of the clinical care should include an evaluation of the resource use inherent in the system, including duplication of services, unnecessary services.
- In health care, prevention dollars are more productive than treatment dollars. Prevention needs to be tied in to overall cost-cutting. The goal is to get people to change the way they think about their behaviors when treating patients.

- Advocate for a culture shift. Is the work environment one in which people notice and act on sustainability efforts? This focuses on awareness of resource use, particularly at the point of service.
- In addition to teaching about costs, trainees should also learn to consider overall resource use.
- Could sustainability information and training be embedded in campus computers?
- How could we incentivize the process? I.e. if the University meets some goals, the entire University would benefit. For example, in the Medical Center, patient satisfaction is incentivized by cash bonuses.

Campus-Wide Issues

- Maric Munn, Director, Facilities Management is a resource for improving knowledge of campus sustainability issues such as recycling.

Education/Curriculum

- Seek a key education contact in each school to discuss incorporating sustainability into their curriculum.
 - Dentistry: Dorothy Perry, Associate Dean, Education and Admissions or Sheila Brear, Curriculum Committee Chair
 - Medicine: Helen Loeser, Associate Dean, Curricular Affairs
 - Nursing: Judith Martin-Holland, Associate Dean, Academic Programs
 - Pharmacy: Betty-Ann Hoener, Associate Dean
- Seek information about Harvard Medical School's incorporation of sustainability into the curriculum.
 - Richard Gillis, Executive Director, Curriculum Programs
- Seek funding to incorporate sustainability into existing curriculum or to create sustainability teaching modules.
- Examine the existing curriculum to see where sustainability could fit in.
- Bring sustainability to the Academic Senate Committees on Educational Policy and Courses of Instruction.
- How can adding sustainability to the curriculum be balanced with accreditation requirements?

Laboratories – Torsten Wittmann

- In the clinical and research settings, if materials cannot be reused and autoclaved, UCSF should search for the most recyclable, lowest-impact materials and equipment.
- Training about sustainable practices should be incorporated as a standard component of university training, perhaps as part of the environmental health and safety reviews. Facilities teams should go lab-to-lab to conduct water and energy audits and to help find sustainable practices to replace unsustainable practices.
- Create a UCSF green certification for laboratories
- Create an incentive system for energy/water in the labs. Friendly competition? Penalty?
- Has UCSF conducted water and energy audits? Would it be possible to determine usages for individual users?
- Toxics complicate recycling efforts. Education about proper disposal of toxics will be an important component of sustainability efforts on campus.

Adjournment

Co-Chair Fuentes-Afflick adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

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