

Loyola University Chicago
Center for Urban Environmental Research and Policy
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Friday, February 15, 2008

In Attendance

Wen Jie Chen, David Crumrine, Marshall Eames, Kim Fox, David Goldblatt, James Gutermuth, John Kelly, Julie Kenkel, Samantha Kufta, Dan Larkin, Gina Lettiere, Shane Lishawa, David Micelli, Chris Peterson, Elisa Ringholm, Glenn Shipley, Joan Smith and Alison Varty

Approval of January 18, 2008 CUERP Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes were approved by attendees and with no changes, were unanimously approved.

Loyola University Chicago Provost Undergraduate Research Fellowship

Elisa Ringholm presented a brief overview of her Provost Undergraduate Research Fellowship project which is being conducted during the spring 2008 semester. Her project is titled, "Sustainability from the Institution to the Individual: A case study". The project will explore Loyola members' perceptions of sustainability, levels of individual responsibility, and relationships between values and behaviors. Following the brief overview, Elisa invited meeting participants to send her suggestions and comments for her project.

CUERP Sustainability Director Position

In the fall of 2007, CUERP received funding to hire a Sustainability Director. The candidate selected for the position will start July 1, 2008 and will be involved in all aspects of implementing the sustainability plan including working with Facilities on sustainable infrastructure and working with the academic side of the university on bringing sustainability into the undergraduate core curriculum, teaching a course related to sustainability, developing a graduate program in sustainability, enriching student organizations, and supporting the university mission of social responsibility. The job description is going through its final stages of approval. Further information of job announcement and postings will be distributed when available.

Outreach to Neighboring Communities: Uncommon Ground

STEP: Biodiesel faculty members Shane Lishawa and Alison Varty, and students in the STEP course have been conducting outreach into the local community to explore partnerships to distribute the biodiesel produced at Loyola. Shane Lishawa has met with owners of Uncommon Ground, a local restaurant to discuss a partnership in which they would supply Loyola with waste vegetable oil in return for biodiesel. Additional outreach endeavors include Shane presenting at Uncommon Ground's green session discussing alternative fuels. STEP students and faculty will continue with outreach as part of the student projects.

Edgewater Sustainability Initiative

In December 2007, members of the Edgewater Community Council (ECC) and faculty members Marshall Eames, Marilyn Krogh and David Van Zytveld from CURL met to discuss a potential collaboration in crafting a strategic plan to design a sustainable Edgewater community. Following the meeting, ECC and Dr. Eames committed to work together on this project. Currently Dr. Eames has students in his Environmental Sustainability course working with ECC to gather the necessary data needed to develop a sustainable strategic plan. ECC will also explore with Loyola the possibility of graduate students formulating an Edgewater sustainable vision as a graduate project.

Trashed Film Screening and Panel Discussion

On January 23, 2008, Loyola faculty member Raymond Benton Jr. with the Department of Marketing in the School of Business Administration held a screening of the documentary film *TRASHED* at the Water Tower Campus. The film took viewers on an investigation of America's garbage business, one of the fastest growing industries in North America, and pointedly demonstrates the harm caused by American's culture of waste. Dr. Benton is interested in shifting work in the School of Business towards an increase in research. His intent of showing the film is to raise awareness about the 90% non-consumers in the world and what would happen if that 90% adopted US consumer habits. Following the film, a panel discussion included Bill Kirkos, the director/producer of the film, Dr. Martina Schmeling, Department of Chemistry, and a representative from a Chicago based consumer research firm. CUERP is exploring the possibility of holding a screening of the documentary at the Lake Shore Campus.

STEP: Biodiesel Program Updates

Advanced STEP Course

Students in the Advanced STEP: Biodiesel course continue working on projects initiated during the fall 2007 semester. Projects include researching algae as a fuel stock, community outreach and educating high school students on the production of biodiesel. Future projects for the STEP program are being explored and they include topics such as “greening” the deconstruction of Damen Hall, water and stormwater issues, and urban agriculture.

Core Innovation

CUERP submitted a summer 2008 Core Innovation award proposal to improve and sustain the STEP program. The proposal outlines the areas where the STEP course is aligned with the University’s Civic Engagement and Leadership Value Area. If awarded, STEP course credits can be applied towards the University’s core curriculum in the area of Civic Engagement.

Spring Public Forum

The STEP: Biodiesel Spring 2008 course will hold its public forum in the afternoon on April 24th. The format of the forum is currently in its planning stages. Further information about the forum will be announced when available.

EPA P3 award

STEP is funded in part with a grant awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) “P3” program (People, Prosperity and the Planet Student Design Competition for Sustainability). Award recipients are to showcase their project at a P3 Expo in April 2008 in Washington, D.C. Daniel Larkin, a Primary Investigator for the award, Shane Lishawa and student Luke Beasley will attend the Expo.

Additionally, Phase I award recipients are invited to submit a proposal for P3’s Phase II, an award for \$75,000. CUERP and undergraduate student, Luke Beasley are working on a Phase II proposal due the end of March 2008. The proposal will focus on educating high school students on the issues of biodiesel production, thus incorporating various disciplines.

CUERP Director Search

The CUERP Director Search is ongoing. An update will be provided at CUERP’s March 13th monthly meeting.

Master’s in Sustainability

At the outcome of the fall 2007 semester, the faculty and students involved in the fall 2007 STEP program expressed the need for an environmental graduate program that is interdisciplinary in nature where students can develop and implement projects that promote sustainability. As a result, CUERP is investigating the possibility of creating a professional, non-research based Master’s in Sustainability. Details of the investigation will be discussed at the March 13th CUERP monthly meeting when Nancy Tuchman is available to provide further information.

Seminar: CUERP’s GIS Projects

Today’s seminar was presented by David Goldblatt, CUERP’s Geographic Information Specialist in which he shared with the attendees the various projects he is collaborating on with Loyola faculty, staff and external partner.

Meeting adjourned.