

Loyola University Chicago
Center for Urban Environmental Research and Policy
Faculty Meeting
Thursday, March 13, 2008

In Attendance:

Marissa Ambrosius, Blake Anderson, Paula Bui, Lauryn Burkhalter, Xavier Chen, Greg Deresinski, Alan Gitelson, David Goldblatt, James Gutermuth, Marshall Eames, Kimberly Fox, Marilyn Krogh, Dan Larkin, Gina Lettiere, Shane Lishawa, Anna Murphy, Tim O'Brien, Chris Peterson, Lucia Samayoa, John Shea, Cammeron Stamm, Dirk Staples, Allen Stryczek, Nancy Tuchman, Alison Varty, and Tyler White

Introductions

To better acquaint everyone in attendance, meeting participants introduced themselves and briefly state their role at Loyola University Chicago.

CUERP Director Search

The Search Committee submitted recommendations for Dr. Alan Steinman for the CUERP Director position. Dr. Steinman is currently the Director of the Annis Water Resources Institute at Grand Valley State University overseeing 70 staff members that collaborate to integrate research, education, and outreach to enhance and preserve freshwater resources. The Committee considered Dr. Steinman as a very qualified candidate to guide CUERP in reaching its mission. During negotiations, he declined the position due to new opportunities that were offered in his region of Michigan. The Search Committee is looking at a second candidate and future updates will be provided when available.

Sustainability Director Position

A subcommittee approved a job description and announcement which is expected to be distributed and posted within the next two weeks. The candidate selected for the Sustainability Director will help execute a campus-wide sustainability plan based upon data analyzed from the audit. The audit, conducted by Dr. Marshall Eames with the assistance of student workers to collect the data, gives a quantitative picture of how Loyola is using resources and areas to improve use of those resources. The goal is to bring the University to a level of carbon neutrality. The Director will work to implement strategies for the University to achieve the highest level of efficiency that can be obtained.

Biodiesel Lab Manager Position

CUERP will seek a person to oversee the biodiesel lab and contribute to other STEP projects. The current job description was circulated to meeting participants for comments. The job announcement is expected to be posted in spring 2008.

STEP: Biodiesel Spring Course and Public Forum Update

The students in the spring STEP: Biodiesel are involved in several experiential projects: education, distribution, production research, communications, drafting a user guide, and quality assurance/quality control. The education project involves collaborating with several groups in the region such as Friends of the Park to conduct educational outreach to local high schools. Other students are developing a user's guide to help direct the use of biodiesel. The production research group is investigating methods to improve efficiency of making the fuel and includes exploring the utilization of the waste products methanol and glycerin. The communication group is working on several media components to promote the spring public forum. And the distribution group is collaborating with Loyola's Center for Urban Research and Learning to identify the feasibility to distribute biodiesel to low-income residents and non-profit shelters/organizations to use as furnace heating oil.

The spring forum, Biofuels Public Forum is on April 24, 2008, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., McCormick Lounge, Coffey Hall. The event will feature regional biofuels experts for a panel discussion with an interactive poster session to take place during the later half of the forum.

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. The discussion of creating this program has evolved into generating revenue to support CUERP projects.

Most universities are hiring sustainability directors / coordinators. However, it is recognized that within this growing field, those individuals engaged in implementing sustainable policies have not had a comprehensive training to encompass all the diverse disciplines such as engineering, resource conservation, education and research, and political and social theories that help to create sustainable campuses. Arizona State University was the first institution to development a program for a master's in sustainability and CUERP would like to explore creating a similar program. With Loyola's strengths in the sciences, the program will incorporate categories for education, business, law, and other disciplines. The program would be suited for the professional seeking to advance their careers in sustainability. Additionally, the program may lead to a traditional Ph.D. program

Currently a market analysis is being conducted to explore if other sustainable education programs for professionals exist in the region. The analysis is already demonstrating the need for a program in the Chicago region and indicates that Loyola's metropolitan location is an asset and the University can fill a gap in this area for a master's in sustainability for the professional. Further updates will be given when available.

Seminar

Dr. Marshall Eames, Natural Science Department, Loyola University Chicago presented results from the "Loyola University Chicago's Sustainability Analysis.

Meeting adjourned