

Minutes

Harvard Climate Collaborative Meeting

Nov. 30, 2009, 7-8:30 pm, HUCE Conference Room

Present: Steve Jordan (GSE), Sandra Ray (HLS), Julia Roos (HSPH), Allison Crimmins (HKS), Tiffany Curtis (HDS), Tim Lehmann (HDS), Kitty Beer (HILR), Irv Ballit (HILR), Erin Bettendorf (HMS), Kelsey Smith (HMS), Karen McKinnon (College), Emma Crossen (College)

▪ 7:00-7:05 Gather

▪ 7:05-7:15 Welcome and Introductions:

- Karen invited everyone to come to the HEEN Happy Hours and to provide feedback to Julia Africa about timing of Happy Hours
- With several new members present, Karen asked everyone to do introductions, saying name, school, and group affiliations

▪ 7:15-7:40 HMS Presentation (Kelsey Smith and Erin Bettendorf)

- Highlights
 - Snapshot report card about sustainability at HMS, easy to distribute and give updates
 - Labs account for majority of energy use in Longwood but most people in labs are not HMS students and most HMS students are not in labs.
 - Workshop to prepare students for being more sustainable in summer lab work
 - Shut the Sash campaign, run by Claire at OFS: contest b/w labs in 2005
 - Turnover in lab personnel is a major issue; so trainings must be done periodically
 - Does LEED have special standards for labs?
 - Is there a move to put sensors on lab hoods.?
 - Green Office program is a good way for students to work with OFS to connect with staff
 - Lighting initiatives have been less successful than hoped.
 - Image comparing the new HMS building when lights are on (most of the time) and a black-out image from when they were off for one hour during Earth Hour
 - There was resistance to turning off lights for even one hour.
 - Possible reasons for resistance?
 - Aesthetic
 - HMS is a 24-hour community, to some extent
 - Currently, students are leading efforts to improve heating control, especially in student tutorial rooms
 - Students act as barometers at HMS, asking why when sustainability measures aren't being followed
 - There is momentum at HMS already to improve facilities, so student advocacy is not as necessary at HMS. What students do provide is

accountability to each other and the institution. And, students can educate each other about sustainability in their professions beyond HMS.

- Green Roof with Fenway Green Roof Student Coalition, initiated by Boston Latin School
- Work on reusable containers for dining services

▪ **7:40-7:45 Questions**

- Allison Crimmins mentioned that students at HKS are volunteering to install smart strips in all the offices this week

▪ **7:45-8:00 Small Group Discussion**

- Small groups

▪ **8:00-8:30 Large Group Discussion**

- Reports from small groups
 - First group: is there a group (maybe HCC) that can make recommendations to schools? how can students across schools collaborate to pressure the decentralized schools at Harvard?
 - Second group: frustration about lack of communication between facilities directors; there is animosity and competition; can we get all the facilities directors to sit down and share ideas; this will bring fresh perspectives to schools that feel stuck, like they've maxed out what facilities can do; where there is resistance, how can we say "too bad, this is not your decision to make"; HEEN is talking to OFS about hosting an event in the spring for OFS to publicly say "where are we in relation to the 30% pledge we made last year?"
 - With only a few minutes left in the meeting, and before the third small group reported, the discussion turned to a general sense of frustration among many HCC members at OFS and the perception that OFS is not saying enough about Harvard's progress toward the 30% by 2016 GHG goals and that facilities directors are not doing enough to share best practices across campuses and support each other. A few students shared anecdotes of frustrating experiences with OFS or facilities directors. The following information was also shared:
 - There is a Building Efficiency task force sponsored by OFS that brings together Facilities directors.
 - This task force is publishing a report that can be distributed to HCC members
 - It was suggested that, in order for HCC to push for more transparency and cross-campus support, we should be very specific about what information we're requesting and also not make generalizations about OFS or facilities directors until we talk more specifically to OFS and facilities contacts and find out how they respond to our specific requests.
 - It was suggested that HCC should frame our concern positively and, instead of criticizing OFS, express our willingness to help

OFS and to help inform our campuses about the successes that have already been made in order to encourage future efforts.

- The meeting concluded with a decision to return to this topic briefly at the next meeting (January 25) and to continue the discussion over e-mail before then. Karen sent an e-mail to all HCC members after the meeting with more specific suggestions for how to proceed with gathering information before the next meeting.
 - There was a general consensus that one way to focus our efforts would be to compile sustainability report cards at each school, similar to what HMS featured in their presentation.
 - The text of Karen's follow-up e-mail is attached to the minutes.
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- **8:30 Meeting ends**
 - At end of meeting, Emma invited everyone to send suggestions or concerns for how HCC meetings will function next semester.
 - **Next meeting: January 25, 2009, 7-8:30pm, HUCE conference room.**
 - **Meeting theme: Curriculum**

Text of e-mail sent Dec. 1, 2009

Dear HCC members,

Thank you for a very exciting and passionate discussion last night. Because of the holiday, our next meeting is not until January 25; therefore, we decided it would be ideal to continue the discussion and plan action via email. From the meeting, it seems that we have the following action points.

* Each school should figure out who they work with or should be working with at OFS if they have not already, and establish contact.

* Each school should also contact and sit down with their facilities manager to discuss the current status of energy at their school, what has been done, what needs to be done, etc. Also get a feel of the willingness of your manager to share best practices and incorporate others' best practices

* Contact the previously determined person at OFS and ask for a 'contextualizing energy report card' for your school. The report card should probably include status of emissions, steps that have already been completed, planned steps, and their status. Allison, could you craft an email or outline of what each member should send to their contact at OFS?

As Emma said at the end of the meeting, there is still a lot to hash out about (1) the source of frustration and (2) what can be done about it/our exact asks.

Please use this email chain to discuss, and add anything that I have forgotten. We'll have the minutes up on the blog soon if you want to reference them as well.

Cheers,
Karen and Emma