

In Attendance: Karen McKinnon (Co-coordinator, College), Julia Cai (HES), Gracie Brown (College), Julia Roos (HSPH), Allison Crimmins (HKS), Eric Uva (HKS), Jonnie Sargent (GSD), Cassandra Freyschlag (SEAS), Stephen Jensen (GSAS), Tiffany Curtis (HDS), Emma Crossen (Co-coordinator, HDS)

7:05 Meeting began with brief introductions (Name and School affiliation); one new member, Julia Cai, was present; she is replacing Alisyn Johnson from HES.

7:10 Presentation on monthly theme, Recycling and Waste: Stephen and Cassandra gave a presentation on Recycling and Waste Initiatives at SEAS and GSAS. (Their PowerPoint is available on the HCC blog)

- Slide Show #1 (Slide themes)
 - Confluence of paper and IT to reduce energy use
 - reduce waste
 - look to vendors
 - Junk-mail party
 - Have other schools done this?
 - OFS has a list of companies to call to remove names from junk-mail lists
 - Lighting
 - Water Conservation
 - Waste in the Labs
 - Collection Drives
 - Types of recyclable plastic #1-7
 - E-Waste
 - Recycling at Harvard (statistics and a clarification)
 - Harvard claims to recycle computers responsibly. Cassandra could not find out more about where the computers go.
 - It is rarely more expensive to recycle than it is to throw away. Harvard pays \$87 per ton to dispose of trash, and gets paid \$55 per ton to recycle.
- Slideshow #2: Slides used for an Educational Campaign to promote recycling in GSAS dorms.: (each slide explains what can and cannot be recycled)
 - Stephen and Cassandra turned the slides into a mobile (using coat hangers, string, small laminated signs, and examples of recyclable materials) to hang in the GSAS dorm kitchens. They brought one of the mobiles to the meeting.

7:30 Discussion about Recycling and Waste

- How to design signs about what is compostable/recyclable
 - HSPH had 3-d signage; the administration had it removed and claimed that it was not aesthetically appropriate for the space.
 - HDS has 3-d signage above bins in cafe and has heard nothing but positive reviews about them.
 - Suggestions:

- Art/Design contest at schools to design signage that is more aesthetically acceptable and effective
- Position people in cafeterias near bins to “guide” disposers
- Use new-student orientation to orient students to the proper way to dispose of waste, recyclables, and compostables.
- Waste Audit
 - HKS just did a waste audit
 - College has done a waste audit in the past
 - Rob Gogan, from Harvard Recycling, works with the schools that want to do this.
- Mount Trashmore: College does this every year, usually in November, displays trash in Harvard Yard.
- To promote behavior change, use a strategy of more continuous reminders or programs rather than a one-time event.
- Facilities directors have routine data about how much they spend to dispose of trash, recycling, and compost, so data is readily available if student groups want to use it.
- Rob Gogan at Harvard Recycling is available to help with waste audits and other programs.
- Someone mentioned that it’s good to keep in mind that a significant number of people don’t know much about recycling (as hard as it is for us to believe) and that many students have very little experience with recycling.
- Is it actually cheaper to use local, recycled materials for furniture, etc.? This question was asked in response to a slide about a lab renovation in GSAS.
 - In response to this question, Jonnie (from GSD) clarified that most of the energy input for products comes during manufacturing and not from transport. So buying local (eliminating shipping distance) doesn’t necessarily yield energy efficiency. He gave the example of buying roses in winter: The process for producing roses in a Vermont greenhouse is probably less energy-efficient than roses grown in Africa and shipped to the U.S..

8:00 Update on communications with OFS: Karen, Emma, Gracie, and Allison shared updates from a February 2 meeting with OFS administrators (Heather Henricksen, Jaclyn Olsen, and Mitch Hunter) and several student leaders.

- What OFS said at the meeting:
 - OFS appreciated the HCC report last year; they especially liked that we gave it to the deans so that the deans could see student support for sustainability initiatives. The one thing they did not like was that several of HCC’s “recommendations” were recommending actions that OFS was already working on but the report did not acknowledge that OFS was already working on those initiatives.
 - OFS is sponsoring a Green Carpet Awards later this spring. It seems that OFS is doing this in order to provide an event to publicize and encourage the GHG emission goals, but to do so with a very small budget. Their concern is how to get people to come to the event.

- At this HCC meeting, several HCC members questioned the value of the Green Carpet Awards, saying: it sounds like something very few people will attend, that those who do attend will be people who already support sustainability efforts at Harvard, and so the event will not help to spread the word about OFS and the GHG goals.
- OFS wants to find ways to communicate better with students. At the meeting, they asked for suggestions about how to do this.
 - OFS is already planning to create sustainability report cards for each school with recent data on several sustainability measures. This idea also came up at the December HCC meeting when the HMS reps told about their sustainability report cards. OFS intends to produce these cards for each school at least once a year.
 - At the Feb. 2 meeting, it was suggested that OFS could communicate with students about how to show encouragement and appreciation for Facilities Directors at key times during the year. This might mean stopping by the facilities office to say “thank you” after they submit data to OFS or intervening when (if) a facilities director is reluctant to submit data. (Note: no one suggested that any facilities directors were reluctant; rather, the suggestion was that if such a situation arose, students might be able to advocate.)
- OFS noted that almost all of their data is public and can be viewed with a Harvard login on websites such as Energy Witness (access through <http://www.uos.harvard.edu>) and the Harvard Fact Book (http://www.provost.harvard.edu/institutional_research/archive/Provost_-_Harvard_Fact_Book_2008-09.pdf).
- OFS also reiterated the complexity of the data and how much time it requires to compile all the data into accessible metrics.
- OFS has created two new positions: a Communications Manager (not-yet-hired) and a position working entirely with Occupant Engagement. Dara Olmsted is in the latter position. She has worked on occupant engagement at FAS in her previous role as coordinator of Green Teams and Green Office. This new position allows her to work with the entire campus.
- OFS staff are available to speak at town-hall meetings or do other presentations at schools.
- At the HCC meeting, Karen noted that there are two types of OFS communication: 1) communication about what OFS is doing and sustainability results at Harvard; 2) communication about what students can do.
- Several people mentioned the importance of new-student orientation as a time to spread the message about OFS. There was suggestion for OFS to develop a short, repeatable presentation—using video, PowerPoint, or another medium—and offer to provide this presentation at orientations. This would require hardly anything from the schools other than a time allotment, and schools could choose to tailor the presentation to showcase their own initiatives, as well.

8:20 Discussion about the 2010 HCC Final Report

- Karen noted that last year's report served 2 functions: 1) provide institutional memory about what each student group did over the course of the year; 2) make suggestions to OFS.
- Based on the comments from OFS, it was decided that HCC should collaborate with OFS to determine the recommendations and present the report to the deans in a way that shows student and OFS support for the recommendations.
- There was discussion about whether to include school-specific recommendations in addition to recommendations that apply to the entire university. It was undecided where these recommendations would appear in the report.
- **It was decided to spend the next HCC meeting (March 29) working on the shared HCC recommendations for the Final Report instead of using the meeting for another thematic presentation. Karen and Emma will invite Dara Olmsted (OFS) and the new OFS Communications Manager (if anyone has been hired) to attend that meeting and collaborate on developing recommendations for the HCC Final Report.**
- **At the March 29 meeting, HCC members will bring their individual school reports. Karen will send out the template before that meeting. It was decided that HCC should compile the report before the April meeting because the April meeting falls during the rush of final exams.**
- **At the March 29 meeting, a decision will be made about how to structure the final HCC meeting.**