# Sustainability Commission

# Meeting Minutes

February 13th, 2013

Director of Accounting McManus Report: an updated spreadsheet of the budget was passed around. The spring 2013 funds should be added in the next week or so.

Update on On-going Projects

* LED lights: There was some confusion about the budgets for the Phase I and Phase II proposals. Jen Cox will further look into the issue.
* Outdoor recycling bins: 17 of the 20 will be installed over the weekend – the remaining 3 must be relocated and will be installed once new locations are established.
* Indoor recycling bins: Strong Hall has now removed trash bins out of the class rooms due to the efficiency of the indoor bins that were installed.
* Solar array, Meyer Library: The structure to hold the array was vastly underestimated in the original cost. The original proposal allocated $120,000 for the array; bids have been coming in about double that cost. Options for the future of the project were discussed:
  + The possibility of terminating the project was discussed. This is not ideal since the project was the largest every proposed, and much time and effort has already gone into it.
  + Reserve fund: The Sustainability Fund keeps a 10% reserve at all times. This is intended to cover the cost of projects that come in over budget. However, there is not enough money in the fund to cover the increased cost of the solar array.
  + Another option was to decrease the size of the array, thereby decreasing the cost. However, even if the array were reduced to 60% of its original size, the cost would be about $30,000 over the original allocated budget. Further decreasing the size would call into question the efficiency of the project.
  + The best option may be to terminate the project at the next meeting. The money taken out of the Sustainability fund for the array would be returned to the fund. Then the project managers could present the proposal with updated costs and the Commission could vote on the ‘new’ project. This is a timely manner, since the bids that were extended for the array will only be valid for 60 days (as of February 7th). These options will be discussed with the projects managers, The Director of Sustainability, and Doug Sampson.

Old Business

* + Campus Garden low-tunnels – approved by a unanimous vote of Commissioners present
  + Hydration Stations Phase II – approved by a unanimous vote of Commissioners present
  + Campus Garden Manager – approved by a unanimous vote of Commissioners present

New business: none

Other Business and Questions

1. Sustainability Committee Update – Lauren is working to have an SGA Stream Team, working on finishing up proposals; deadline for submission of proposals is March 8th.
2. Next meeting: February 27th at 4:00pm