



Student Environmental Community for Sustainability

Minutes of the Meeting of Student Environmental Community for Sustainability (SECS) and Lakehead University Sustainability Team (LUST)

Date: Saturday, March 8th, 2008

Time: 12:40pm to 2:00pm

Place: East Side Mario's

Attendees: Pauline Fogarty, Robert Carty, Alex Boulet, Marley (Surname), Spencer Laing.

Agenda Items: 1) Introductions 2) Green North Eco-Conference Break-Out Session 3) Green Capitalism 4) Action Plan

1) Introductions:

LUST arrives and introductions are made.

2) Break-out session:

Our purpose at conference:

- Youth involvement.

Pauline: Break out session should be an "open-forum" style with everyone included.

Alex: Have structured questions to keep it focused.

Alex: There should be facilitators to guide the discussion; he suggests Doug West, a bearded Political Science professor at LU with an affinity for food.

Pauline: The forum should address different topics, such as those that surround climate change.

Marley: Says that climate change is going to be the main focus of the upcoming L.U.S.T conference.

Alex: Suggests the forum could take the form of a workshop on sustainability and climate change.

Marley: Agrees, as most of the people who will be attending will already be familiar with the issues.

- The forum should focus on "how to communicate the issues" instead of "communicating the issues".

Alex: Explore how to make climate change relate to people.

- How other problems in people's lives are causing or related to climate change.

Pauline: One those connections are made, there should be a component on how to change that.

Marley: Explore different aspects of sustainable living.

- Creating sustainability objectives;
- Eliminating unsustainable practices from daily life.

Pauline: Start off the activity with an icebreaker session.

- Ball of yarn thrown between people who represent seemingly unconnected things to create a web of interconnectivity.

- Everyone could have a card under their chair saying something like “green car” and how it relates to the topic.

Alex: Everyone should have a topic card to keep it focused.

Green Capitalism:

Marley: Just as we have to put pressure on companies to be more sustainable, the huge change in our society are going to happen through the companies; a transition to social sustainability where people enjoy their jobs and have interest in sustainable living.

Alex: We can't have sustainability and Capitalism.

- Inherent conflict between profit and social responsibility.

Alex: How do you envision stakeholder capitalism?

Robert: Companies don't operate for profitability of shareholders but in the interests of stakeholders. There's an inherent conflict in the concept of triple-bottom-line between 'people and planet' and 'profit'.

Pauline: Truly community driven economies.

Marley: Instructs the group on The Natural Step (TNS) model:

- Create optimal strategy for present day situation;
- Invest and act to move organizations to sustainability;
- Minimize short term profit;
- Maximize long term sustainability.

Pauline: The theme of the session could be “Sustainability for the Future” because of the youth component.

Marley: Reiterates that the focus should be ‘how to talk about sustainability’.

Marley: Get everyone to sign a petition to encourage a major corporation to change their unsustainable practices.

4) Action Plan:

Calls for the conference:


Robert: We need to focus on getting calls done next week as a bargaining chip.

Alex: Some LUST members might, however, there are exams in that week. But he's ready to make some calls.

Marley: Will make calls too. She jokes that she's good at talking on the phone.

Robert: Asks Spencer if the SUCCI office is open during March Break.

Spencer: Thinks that Jon Hendel is going to be there during the week, so it's possible that calls can be made from there.



Spencer: Has a meeting with Jon and John on Monday to confirm our involvement.

Action Plan:

- 1) Get together to make calls as a bargaining chip;
- 2) Demand promises be kept;
- 3) Speak to facilities about venue;
- 4) Hold a break-out session that shows those curmudgeonly old folks how it's done.

Meeting Adjourned.