

Student Sustainability Council
September 17, 2010
Ruth Merrill Center
2-3 PM

Minutes: Lighting

I. Open Forum

- a. Meg wants to open up discussion about places on campus that need better lighting from a sustainability and student life standpoint- better bulbs and lighting on campus can make a huge difference sustainability-wise
- b. Eris shared a lot of technical knowledge about the lights themselves and the electric components that go into various types of lights and bulbs -he explained how there are a lot of variables having to do with the different systems used to control the lights on campus (photocell, DDC control system, timeclock system)

II. Prioritized List

- a. SSC wants to focus on three components of the lighting situation on campus:
 - i. What locations are presently the most unsustainable
 - ii. What changes would make the biggest difference for students
 - iii. What changes are most/least likely to get done
- b. **Danforth**- Seen as a crucial place to begin improving the lighting policy, according to both SSC and student feedback- lights, televisions and music are constantly on, wasting energy
- c. **Towers**- Another area where improvements need to be made, but efforts so far have been blocked by administration's plans to renovate in the future
- d. **The Commons**- Incandescent lights should be replaced by more energy efficient lights
- e. **Great Hall**- Discussion of a better lighting system, removing incandescent and individual table compact fluorescent lights in favor of more central and more sustainable lighting
- f. **Gavett**- Want to work on the lighting issues, but there are actual established renovation plans within the next 1-2 years
- g. Eris discussed the differences between building sensors, classroom switches versus sensors- obstacles with sensors are that although they are now cheaper and wireless, there are potential IT issues
- h. **Spurrier**- Lights are outdated and always on even during nighttime hours when the building is not being used
 - i. Importance of this building was discussed as it is not as widely used by the student body so prioritizing is an issue
 - ii. However, intramural sports teams and housekeepers should have a responsibility to turn off lights when leaving the building
- i. Discussion of a possible way of measuring the energy usage of all the buildings we are focusing on and comparing them to see which buildings are the biggest energy drains in order to more accurately prioritize them

- i. Dimmer system in **The Pit** needs to be improved upon, the challenge is to get someone up to the ceilings in order to switch out the lights
 - ii. ESW might be able to start doing some research into more energy-efficient and affordable methods for switching out the lights
- j. **Goergen Athletic Center**- In the gym, sports complex and Astroturf-areas of lighting problems
- k. **Exterior/Parking lighting**- Discussion of the outdated high-pressure sodium lights (dim, yellow-tinted) parking lighting versus new LED system
- l. **Blue Light System**-for security reasons they are supposed to be on 24 hours a day, Eris discussed his spot-testing an LED light, because of expense it is not feasible at this time to switch them all out for LEDs
 - i. Concerns about switching parking lights to newer and brighter LED lights- possible issues for students living directly facing the parking lots as they might be too bright
 - ii. This led to discussion of the brightness of the Football Field lights and the issues with those being improved

III. Possible Solutions/Ideas

- a. **Education**- Possibly working with Dining to get someone whose job it is to turn the lights off when their shift is over
 - i. Eris talked about working on the key switches and getting new keys for those
- b. **Awareness campaigns**- Effectiveness was discussed, possible flyering or student campaigns to educate the student body about lighting issues on campus and what is being done to correct them
- c. **Danforth**- Possible renovations might be relatively soon in the future, might need to prioritize it differently
- d. **Event Support**-possibly having someone patrol the buildings at night on Fridays and ensure that all the lights are off for the weekend
- e. **Talking to professors and/or Cleaning/Maintenance**-modifying the standard protocol of locking down the buildings at night or for over the weekend to include the turning off of all the lights

IV. Closing

- a. **Study Abroad**- Alexis briefly discussed her experience in Amsterdam and how environmentally friendly a city it was. She is planning on emphasizing that to the Study Abroad Office in the hopes that others who want a green study abroad experience will be able to take advantage of that
- b. **Team Green**- Talked about the introduction of the new Eco-Friendly Clam Shells in dining centers on campus
 - i. Will cut down on waste by eliminating the need for a plate, and will make Danforth a take-away eating center because it serves as a to-go container
 - ii. Costs \$5 declining or FLEX and is good for the rest of the time spent at UR
 - iii. Dining will wash them for you, works on the keychain system and should work in all food stations except Panda Express

- c. **Annual Electronics Recycling Event**-set for October 29th, Rayna is looking for volunteers
- d. **Greeks Go Green**- New program engaging students involved in Greek life with sustainability issues, will be centered around awareness and education
- e. **Possible Topics for Next Week Discussion**- Food, Water, Heating
- f. **Suggestions**
 - i. Bringing in faculty and staff relevant and knowledgeable about the topic to be part of the open discussion forum
 - ii. Announce the topic and some thought-provoking questions in advance
 - iii. More flyering and awareness of the meeting to the rest of the student body, trying to expand the group and get more students involved in the discussion
 - iv. Free food!
- g. **Next SSC meeting Friday, October 22**