Campus Ecology Group Meeting
22 January 2009

Present: Bob Turner, Christov Churchward, Rachel Surprenant, Nicole Dennis, Katelyn Ciolino, Lindsey Jacobsin, Shelly Forster, Katrina Engelsted, Yuzhou Jiang, Gavin Leighton, Kathleen Onorevole, Jen Rusciano, Alexandra Pons, Beth Parks, Kate Reynolds, Paul Pinet, Mike Gladle, Amanda Fernley, Mtri Wohns, Michael Michonski

Amanda Fernley opened up the meeting with REI’s (Residential Education Initiative) 13 Days of Green Feb 1 – 13. Amanda hoped that the 13 initiatives of the Green Summit could be incorporated into each day and/or maybe each environmental group on campus would host some event. REI hopes to brand student groups with a C logo if their group or specific events meets some kind of low-impact criterion. The National Teach In (5 February) will be part of it, culminating in Green Summit. The banners on the Portal will be changed (green) for the 13 Days. Amanda shared that REI would love for existing groups to contact them with ideas/involvement in the 13 Days; they may have some funding available. Alex Pons represented the Debate Society and expressed interest in being involved. Mitri from the Loj suggested they could host a dinner some night(s). Members of the composting group will do something. Broad Street Association meets Sunday so Mitri will talk it up. The possibility of selling carbon offsets at a Coop table was mentioned, similar to the effort done by last year’s facilitators of Focus the Nation. Amanda reports that the Energy Olympics are being run by the REI over the 13 days as a competition among the first-year dorms. Yuzhou suggested incorporating an environmental tie-in to the Chinese Dinner in Frank on Feb. 10. Amanda said that Frank is encouraging students to go “trayless” in Frank on Tuesday. Someone mentioned Career Services doing an environmental careers fair, reminding Rachel to follow up with the office. Possibility of having an environmental themed first-year think-tank? Mitri volunteered Democracy Matters to do an event at the Coop on the interface of campaign finance and environmentalism. For each day, a faculty member (or others) could pick 5 favorite books and post them somewhere. Could we arrange to turn down the Colgate heat a couple of degrees during the 13 days? We could at least have daily tips. Run Lindsey’s and Shae’s Public Service Announcement-style videos during the 13 days on the Coop plasma screens.

National Teach In: use CSLI list of student leaders (Benae Beamon); also all-student list. Rachel’s list of students. Ask ENST professors to ask students. Student projects from Enst 480 as a session? These will at least be an ENST Brown Bag later in the semester.

Rachel reported on the Green Summit: 13 February 4:00 – 7:00 in Ho Science Center Atrium (Cunniff Commons). There are 13 initiatives. RSVP to Rachel about attendance. Leaders of initiatives (based on ongoing task forces) are already assigned and info will be collected ahead of time, so people won’t have to start from scratch. (Also some new initiatives.) John Pumilio (recently hired Sustainability Coordinator) will be there and will speak. Could we invite alums? (Work with Sue Hodges from alumni affairs office?)
Students for Environmental Action: Gavin reported sustainable dinner at Edge, Green Pledge for graduating seniors; SEA will look into the 13 Days

Christov gave the update on the biofuels task-force: they will be meeting with Bernie Bus sometime soon

Dimitri announced 23 students (now up to 39!) have registered for Power Shift; everything is looking good. The dates are Friday 27 Feb - Monday 2 Mar. They will be taking on more sign-ups at a Coop table this week. $40 to register until Feb 1.

Bruce Selleck, Prof of Geology, could not attend but sent Prof Turner a list of thoughts he had that he wished to be addressed at the meeting.

Michael tossed out the idea of a green lodging option. Christov said he would like to talk with Michael about it. James Amato and REI are looking into it and would be happy to work with others. Townhouses seem like a great possibility.

Next meeting is scheduled for 26 Feb at 4:15 in Ho Science Center 328.