

Minutes for Recycling Committee Meeting

April 23, 2008

9am-10am, NS376

Meeting Facilitator: Michelle Verges

People present: Jennifer Einspahr, Deb Marr, Albert Peiffer, Michael Prater,
Andy Schnabel, Matt Shockey, Susan Thomas, Dave Vollrath

I. MINUTES WERE APPROVED FROM THE MARCH MEETING.

II. OPEN ISSUES AND UPDATES

a) Unopened 2005-07 campus bulletins

The estimate from HIMCO (Contact: Tony Mitchell) was \$190
HIMCO recommended placing boxes (unopened) in the Recycling Dumpster, and the shrinkwrap and bulletins would be sorted at the HIMCO facility.

Michelle summarized her meeting with Jeff Jones, VC Student Affairs

- The registrar unit is interested in reducing waste from over-ordering bulletins. More information needs to be shared across units on how many bulletins are needed, and how many bulletins are unused
- Encourage students to use the Online Bulletin to decrease the number of bulletins needed. In order to allow equal access to bulletin information, some printed bulletins are needed (for students who have limited computer access). Along these lines, Jeff recommended not charging students for bulletins.
- Action needed:
 - o Need to ask Alison Stankrauf if there is an archival system in place at the library for students to access bulletin information (Susan will check on this)
 - o Need to contact Deb Richards and Jeff Johnson to determine who orders the bulletins. This will help close the information gap that leads to excess ordering of bulletins
 - o Need to see if on-demand printing is possible for bulletins. There is less space to store extra bulletins so there is added incentive to reduce waste.

b) Flyers/Labels - Deb will send the flyer and labels to the committee in May.

c) Website – George Candler will update the committee on the website.

III. TECHNOTRASH RECYCLING VS. SECURITY

a) Concerns raised by IT

Technotrash collection bins poses a security risk to Indiana University, which becomes a liability. IU Bloomington lawyers and IU IT security recommended changing the current system of collection. IT is removing technotrash bins from computer labs until a more secure system is worked out.

b) Concerns raised by Recycling Committee

Electronic media have been recycled on campus since 2001 with no evidence of problems with stolen information.

All students, staff, and faculty will own (or already own) electronic media and computer equipment. As a University we should take responsibility for

educating the campus on how to responsibly dispose of electronic media and equipment. Throwing electronic media into University trash should also raise liability issues. Furthermore, it is not legal to dispose of electronic equipment into the general waste stream due to hazardous waste issues.

- c) Suggestions:
- a. Matt Shockey will look into options for locked boxes that could be placed in each open computer lab. The contents of these boxes could be added to the technotrash bins and mailed immediately.
 - b. If the locked boxes are too expensive, an alternative may be to place technotrash bins in the Help Desk in Wiekamp. The Help Desk is staffed by IT personnel and the room is locked so should be a secure location.
 - c. Jennifer Einspaehr will look into what electronic media is accepted (and cost) by the computer recycling firm that handles the recycling of University computers.
 - d. Education issues: Need to improve education of students and faculty on removing personal information from electronic media.
 - o Susan will check with IT on information about how to remove personal information from flash drives, etc. for disposal. This information can be posted on each locked box, along with a liability statement.
 - o Once we have information on how to remove personal information, we can contact Q110 instructors (Information Literacy), CSCI A106 instructors (Computer Literacy), and UCET about including this information in these courses.
 - o If the new system addresses IT concerns, then we need to educate students and faculty in Fall 2008 on new electronic recycling procedures. (Michelle will have an article put in the Preface, and we can contact SGA to help promote this service).

IV. RECAP OF THIS YEAR'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Greater visibility and promotion via the Preface, Facebook, and Senate webpage

Thanks to Amelia Sinnott and Kristin LaFollette for articles in the Preface and maintaining the Facebook page.

2. Composting lawn and landscape waste

Michelle Verges, Michael Prater, and Chris Kaehr did the major legwork on this initiative. Mark Davis (Indiana Yard Waste Solutions and Director of Great Lakes Rural Community Assistance Program) provided technical advice on options for composting on campus.

3. Green Michiana Sustainability Fair (Recycling drives and more)

Plastic bags: We collected over 156,000 plastic bags for recycling by Wal-Mart.

Styrofoam peanuts: We collected 2,000 gallons of styrofoam peanuts that will be reused in UPS packaging stores. Some of the peanuts will be used by the IU-South Bend Arts department in their sculpture art classes.

Expanded polystyrene #6: We collected approximately 5,000 gallons of expanded polystyrene (EPS) #6 (styrofoam used to pack electronic equipment and make coolers). This material will be used by Tegrant Corporation in Michigan City, Indiana (produce ThermoSafe Packaging). The white beads are broken apart, mixed with new styrofoam beads, and remolded into new styrofoam containers. The new styrofoam containers will contain about 10% of the “recycled” styrofoam. We collected 2.5 times more peanuts and “styrofoam” in 2008 compared to 2007. This amount of styrofoam filled a 24-foot moving truck about 75% full (floor to ceiling).

Egg Cartons: Over 300 egg cartons were collected. These egg cartons will be used by local farmers and a church group.

Computers: Free Geek Michiana collected 80 computers, 20 monitors, and associated keyboards, and mice.

Cell Phones: About ten cell phones were collected. Cell phones that can be reused will be reprogrammed for use by women groups. Very old cell phones or damaged cell phones will be recycled by Technotrash (an electronics recycling company).

49 businesses and organizations (government, non-profit groups, and citizen groups) participated in the fair. A rough estimate of 700+ people attended the fair

Coordinated efforts by Recycling committee, Sustainability Committee, Environmental Justice Club, Custodial staff, Support Services, Facilities, and the events office made this fair possible.

4. Recycling 2005-2007 campus bulletins

Seven pallets of unused campus bulletins were recycled.

Andy Schnabel and Michelle Verges worked out the solution of dealing with this waste. Glenn Kozora and Albert Peiffer did the heavy lifting necessary to make this recycling happen.

Business Textbooks: Albert transported discarded textbooks from Business to Better World Books collection boxes for reuse.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS AND GOALS

- a) Recycling awareness in student housing
Michael Prater reported that recycling bins have been ordered for Student Housing. Suggested contact Stacey Oliver (after June 2) to coordinate meeting with Residential Assistants to brainstorm ideas for promoting recycling and wise energy use in student housing. See if students interested in RecycleMania event.
- b) Update website and labels
- c) Partner with IT to coordinate a successful electronic recycling program
- d) Start a reuseable mug campaign (remind faculty to bring mugs to campus events to reduce use of disposable cups)
- e) Add hybrid/electric vehicle parking spot to each building on campus. This would added LEED point for Community Building. If the program is successful, then could expand. Michelle will contact Marty Gersey to see what he thinks.

Minutes submitted by
Deb Marr