2011-2012 Sustainability Grant Application Decisions

ECO Art: Recycled Paper for Sculptural Paper Making
Susan Slater-Tanner

DECISION: Full funding at $500

RATIONALE: The Evaluation Group of the Sustainability Committee recommends full funding of Susan Slater-Tanner’s proposal for purchasing equipment and supplies to make sculptural paper from campus-discarded paper. The proposal ties sustainability to the high-profile Sculpture initiative during AY 11/12 and directly infuses sustainability concepts into the curriculum.

The Evaluation Group has two minor concerns and recommends that the Sustainability Coordinator work with Susan Slater-Tanner to address the issues. First, is the quantification of GHGE savings in the proposal accurate? For example, there will be power needed (blender, etc.) to produce the recycled paper. Was that taken into consideration in the calculations? An accurate estimate of savings is necessary for the objective of the grant proposal to be achieved. Second, it is the assumption of the Evaluation Group that the equipment and supplies purchased to support this project will be reused within courses in the Arts & Communications Department. Is that accurate and, if so, in what courses or in what ways?

Facilities Diesel Generator in coordination with future Biodiesel Fuel Kit
Monty Vacura

DECISION: Funding for Phase 2 only $1,500  (contingent upon institutional support for Phase 1)

RATIONALE: The Evaluation Group recommends partial funding of Monty Vacura’s proposal to produce biodiesel fuel from discarded kitchen grease. Specifically, the partial funding recommended is for Phase 2. Phase 2 is contingent upon Phase 1.

The proposed project is very consistent with the spirit of the Sustainability Grant program. If fully implemented, the proposed project addresses several goals of the Sustainability Master Plan. However, there are multiple, practical issues that need to be addressed for this proposal to be successfully implemented. The Evaluation Group recommends that the Sustainability Coordinator work with Monty Vacura, along with the Facilities Department, the Maintenance Department, Food Services, and the Biology Department Chair to address questions raised about the project (see below) and to develop an implementation plan. Once the implementation plan is developed, funding for Phase 1 can be sought by President Richards from a private donor (a topic previously broached by the President) which demonstrates institutional support for the project. Sustainability Grant funding for Phase 2 will be a continuation of institutional support for the project.

Major questions and concerns that have been raised about the project include:
- Does Facilities support this project? If not, why not? Can those hurdles be overcome with a well-planned implementation plan?
- Is there a specific course or courses in which the generation of biodiesel fuel will be produced? How is this tied to student outcomes in that/those courses?
- Are there specific locations for the biodiesel generating equipment and for long-term storage?
- Is there specific college-owned and maintained machinery or equipment that will use the biodiesel fuel that is generated from the project?
- Specifically, who will be responsible for each phase of the project (collection of oil, production of biodiesel fuel, storage of the fuel, consumption of the fuel, quantification of the scope and impact of the project)?

**Go Green in the Greenhouse Campaign**  
Stephanie Herfel/Sarah Gardner

**DECISION:** Fund partially at $1,000

**RATIONALE:** This proposal has some merit in its use of money to raise awareness of, and encourage involvement in, the initiation and continuation of a greenhouse garden project at Newburgh Campus via several avenues. However, the Evaluation Group expresses several reservations about the likelihood of its success, the amount of money requested relative to the projected impact, and availability of more appropriate sources of funding for some of the budgetary items. In particular:

1) How likely is it that a greenhouse garden will be established successfully, without addressing specifics such as how exactly will it be started, whom will start it, what will be grown, who will be responsible for maintaining it, and what will maintaining it entail? The Group realizes that the central focus of the proposed project is to raise awareness and garner the necessary involvement for such a garden project to be initiated, and not the implementation of the garden project itself. However, answers to such questions are necessary to justify fully funding such a fairly large sum of money being requested ($2917).

2) There are more appropriate sources of funding to consider for securing guest speakers (for example, in close coordination with Cultural Affairs) and for the purchase of books for the library.

Therefore, the Group has decided to fund $1,000 toward this project, an amount the Group feels is a sufficient contribution for a successful awareness campaign to be conducted, with the recommendation that the Sustainability Coordinator work closely with the applicants in addressing the concerns outlined above.

**Digital Scanners for the College Libraries**  
Sarah Gardner/Stephanie Herfel

**DECISION:** Not Funded

**RATIONALE:** The Sustainability Grant Evaluation Group has elected not to fund this application in 2011-12. The Group appreciates the thoughtful and thorough application rationale, but we believe that there
are other, more appropriate avenues for funding a “capital equipment” project such as this. Budgets for the 2012-13 academic/fiscal year are being prepared now and needs/requests such as this could be prioritized for funding from the department.

**Green Operations for Dental Hygiene Clinic**
*Mary Ann McGinnis-Adamo*

**DECISION:** Not Funded

**RATIONALE:** The Sustainability Grant Evaluation Group has elected not to fund this application in 2011-12. The Group appreciates the clinic’s commitment to sustainability, but we believe that there are other, more appropriate avenues for funding a “capital equipment” project such as this. Budgets for the 2012-13 academic/fiscal year are being prepared now and needs/requests such as this could be prioritized for funding from the department.