

Meeting Notes – February 12, 2009

Searle Building – first LEED certified building (hopefully Gold)

Enthusiasm for establishing sustainable building policy for University
Want engagement of faculty, students and staff

Building standards are old/not up to date in general

- No sustainable design aspect at all
- Need higher level goals and specific ideas and strategies
- Starting point: look at different LEED standards and levels to figure out where they apply to University Buildings
 - Points which apply to all projects (e.g. first 3-4 points of energy efficiency)
 - Points that will never be in scope (buying energy credits)
 - Points that should be evaluated on a project basis – architects and engineers need to examine each time
 - At UIC, lead to LEED Silver at minimum (UIC submitted any project higher than \$5M to USGBC)
 - Applied to both new construction and renovation
- At UofC,
 - Some staff have taken city course on sustainability
 - Searle went through the point list
 - City requirements are close to certifiable level
 - LEED qualification process now happening for new buildings
- Need to make sure we don't lose track of fact that sustainable design is much more than just energy efficiency
- Two clients to keep in mind when designing buildings – operations/maintenance personnel and building occupants
 - Need to ensure building “works” over long-haul (e.g. temperature maintenance)
- Plan to hire a consultant to help walk through building design standards (within next 3-12 months)
- Messaging – different audiences, but probably a big focus on financial side given current economy
 - Can be difficult to make sale based on long-view
 - Harvard put aside a chunk of money to borrow against, and paid back with savings over time
 - NU Hospital did surveys on “softer side” (e.g. light, acoustics, etc.), willingness to voluntarily recycle
 - Hard to quantify increase in productivity / decrease in sick days (Greg Katz doing a study in elementary schools)
 - E.g. putting too many people in basement offices, interior spaces, just because it is cheap/easy
- Should be easy to get LEED Silver in an urban setting, but need to make sure we maintain it over time

- Training building occupants
 - Maintenance
- LEED is a way to measure – will be a natural result if we put correct goal in place
- Audience
 - Expand to include future students, future faculty, and donors
- Managerial accounting – divisions are not responsible for energy costs
 - Incentives are not aligned for decision makers
 - Only a small number of people see electrical bill for facilities
 - Work already in place to change this (revolving loan fund)
 - Tie research grants to energy usage for departments
- What is the goal?
 - Carbon neutrality?
 - Lower level goals?
 - 25% reduction in X?
 - Better use of space in general?
- Smaller working group to establish list of topics/goals to build policies upon
- UofC not signatory to any sustainability agreements (other than Illinois one?)
- Campus spending lots of money on architects, designing aesthetically strong buildings
 - Sustainable design could be put on equal footing with strong aesthetics
 - Need to increase perception of value of sustainability
 - Assumption is that buildings will be around for 100+ years
- Opinion of University leadership – won't invest in something just because it's the "right thing"
- Break up the work
 - Building codes that have been successful
 - Aspects/categories we should consider
 - Decide on metrics for measurement
 - UofC vs. competition - benchmarking