

To: Dr. Danielle Ripich—President
Cc: Dr. Jacque Carter—Provost

From: Mike Daley—Co-Chair UNE Environmental Council
Richard Peterson—Co-Chair UNE Environmental Council

Purpose: Report on UNE Environmental Council Activity — 2008–2009 Academic Year
Date: July 10, 2009

End-of-Year Report on UNE Environmental Council Activity 2008 - 2009 Academic Year

The UNE Environmental Council (EC) was active during the 2008 – 2009 academic year. The EC continued to gain visibility and standing in the UNE community, while working to extend previous gains with the help of the sustainability coordinator. Rick Peterson and Michael Daley served for a fourth year as co-chairs of the EC and guided the process of co-chair succession.

Per the bylaws, the UNE EC meets at least once a month during the academic year. During this academic year, the EC met bi-weekly starting on September 10 and ending on May 13, 2009. Important activities of the EC are listed below. Formal voting membership on the EC remained relatively stable from the previous year with the notable addition of UNE's sustainability coordinator, Alethea Cariddi. Consistent with its by-laws, the EC continues to recruit and attract participants from faculty, staff, and students at the Portland and Biddeford campuses. During AY 2008-2009, several members of the UNE Community started to regularly attend meetings for the first time. Refer to the end of this report for a complete list of voting members during AY 2008-2009. Important activities of the EC are discussed in the following sections.

Co-chair Succession

Per the bylaws of the UNE Environmental Council, the chair or co-chairs serve three-year terms. In order to provide stability to the newly created EC, the current co-chairs agreed to serve a fourth year in AY 2008-2009 after being encouraged to do so by members of EC. During this past year, the co-chairs initiated a year-long discussion regarding succession of co-chairs and solicited members of the UNE Community interested in serving a three year term starting in AY 2009-2010. It is the responsibility of the chair or co-chairs to forward a recommendation to the President regarding the appointment of a new chair or co-chair. Based on input from EC members and voting, the current co-chairs recommended Michael Arciero and Neal Jandreau to serve as co-chairs of the EC starting in AY 2009/2010. We are grateful to Mike and Neal for being willing to serve in this capacity and are confident of their ability to lead the EC.

Serving on the UNE Environmental Council has been a very rewarding and productive experience for the current co-chairs, Michael Daley and Richard Peterson. We are proud that the Council has developed into a leading voice for environmental stewardship and integrated itself as a respected partner in the decision making process of the administration where environmental issues are involved. From forming an integrated transportation strategy, to assisting in the hiring of UNE's first Sustainability Coordinator, to signing onto the Presidents Climate Commitment, the EC has brought changes that demonstrate UNE's commitment to environmental stewardship. These accomplishments are the result of a concerted effort of all the members of the EC over the past four years.

Sustainability Coordinator

In April 2008, UNE hired Alethea Cariddi as its first sustainability coordinator working through the office of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) in Campus Services. Soon thereafter, Ms. Cariddi became a member of the EC. In her role as Sustainability Coordinator, she is responsible for coordinating and performing environmental projects, such as the carbon footprint analysis, and promoting environmental stewardship at UNE. During AY 2008-2009, the EC supported Ms. Cariddi in her effort to generate a carbon footprint analysis that ultimately served as the basis for UNE to sign onto the Presidents' Climate Commitment. Ms. Cariddi has become a valuable member of the EC, and members of the Council feel strongly that making permanent the position of

Sustainability Coordinator is in the best interests of the university to demonstrate UNE's commitment to our Core Value of environmental stewardship and to save costs related to the use of resources and energy on campus. The EC continues to work closely with the Sustainability Coordinator to identify, promote and develop specific projects that could bring cost savings through energy efficiencies and waste reductions, as well as demonstrate environmental stewardship.

Presidents' Climate Commitment

On November 3, 2008, UNE became a signatory of the Presidents' Climate Commitment. The Presidents' Climate Commitment (PCC) provides a framework and support for America's colleges and universities to obtain climate neutrality. It recognizes the unique role of university presidents and chancellors in leading their institutions toward achieving climate neutrality, and in providing the critical education and research necessary to help society re-stabilize the world's climate. This framework has put UNE in a community of like-minded campuses, and provided resources to guide UNE's path toward climate neutrality. Soon after signing the agreement, President Ripich appointed staff, faculty, and student members to a PCC Action Planning Team, which continues to meet on a monthly basis. The team is taking steps to augment several of the actions specified by the Commitment, which UNE had already fulfilled prior to signing the PCC. The EC is well represented on the team through the membership of Michael Daley and Alethea Cariddi, who also chairs the Action Planning Team.

Strategic Planning Process

The EC efforts to be involved in the university's strategic planning process came to fruition in the fact that environmental stewardship features prominently in many of the colleges' and departments' strategic plans, as well as that of the university itself. The EC will continue to encourage all parties to now back up their stated plans for environmental sustainability with concrete actions.

UNE Recycling Program

Two work-study students, under the direction of Elisabeth Haase (chair of EC Recycling Subcommittee) and Alethea Cariddi, implemented a single-sort recycling program on the Portland Campus during the summer of 2008. The system consists of three color-coded bins, strategically located around campus. The bin flip-top lids for the trash (gray) and single-sort recycling (green) are identical, providing for identical waste disposal experiences. Signage on the walls and lid tops indicate the types of waste that can be put in each bin. During the school year 2008-2009, we estimate that 360 cubic yards of material went to the Ecomaine recycling facility from the Portland Campus.

The paper recycling system at the Biddeford Campus was improved by increasing signage on receptacles and engaging housekeeping staff in a dialogue about the recycling program. Moving to single-sort recycling at the Biddeford Campus has not progressed due to a funding challenge. The bins will cost approximately \$12,000 and a system for collection will need to be devised to support the switch. Additionally the recycling market has fallen, so there currently is little cost avoidance by diverting trash from MERC.

The recycling programs on both campuses were further enhanced by the addition of the recycling website (www.une.edu/recycle). The website was promoted to students, faculty and staff with the distribution of magnets with the web address. The toner/ink cartridge recycling program has been a big success as well. To date nearly 1,500 pounds of plastics from toner cartridges has been recycled through the collaborative program with the IT department.

Conclusion

The Environmental Council realized important successes in the 2008-2009 academic year; however, it continues to face challenges to its mission. First, it would be beneficial to secure a stable source of funding for endorsed projects. Second, the EC strongly advocates that moving the Sustainability Coordinator position from a temporary to a permanent position will be a key means to further institutionalize UNE's ongoing transition to a culture of sustainability. The Council is looking forward to working closely with the Sustainability Coordinator to prioritize opportunities and embark on projects that will generate cost-saving, environmental projects and develop UNE's

potential as a leader in environmental health and stewardship. Overall, the Environmental Council remains active, energetic, and on-task in developing its message of environmental stewardship at UNE.

Respectfully submitted:

Michael Daley and Rick Peterson
Co-chairs UNE Environmental Council

Voting EC Members Academic Year 2008/2009

1. Rick Peterson (Co-Chair)—Associate Professor Environmental Studies
 2. Mike Daley (Co-Chair)—Assistant Professor Business Administration
 3. Bill Bola—Campus Services Director of Contract Management
 4. Elisabeth Haase—Director of EH&S
 5. Alethea Cariddi—Sustainability Coordinator
 6. Neal Jandreau—University Relations Web Manager
 7. Nichole Connelly—Institutional Advancement
 8. Joel Pelletier—PC Student Affairs
 9. Ian Meng—Assistant Professor Physiology
 10. Eileen Dunfey—CHP Faculty - Dental Hygiene Department
 11. Regi Robnett—Associate Professor Occupational Therapy
 12. Tim Kinne—Business Office
 13. Laurie Mathes—WCC Library Circulation Coordinator
 14. Chelsea Amaio—CAS Student, Environmental Studies
 15. John Zannino—Student CAS Environmental Studies
Mike Appel—Student CAS Political Science & Environmental Studies
 16. Lindsey Wilhelm—Student COM
Walter Sussman—Student COM
Kate Lewis—Student COM
Dan Sheps—Student COM
- Alan Thibeault— (Ex-officio) Campus Planner