In October we recommended the current $5/sem parking fee reduction currently available to Brockman Commons be extended to all students. By email, Nathan asked that decision be revisited. Two concerns were: students owning non-HEV cars would not be eligible (that’s kinda the point), and the amount of reduction would not be significant motivation. The discussion turned to the availability of HEV parking slots around campus. The group abandoned the original question from October and substituted a recommendation to explore additional parking spaces marked for HEV. Miles to follow up with Public Safety.

Nathan Shuler, Ella Williams, and Greg Nicase attended the C2C conference at UT Chattanooga.

Milton Reigelman, Cindy Isenhour and Cheryl Coulter attended the Campus Community Partnership for Sustainability conference in Louisville. Cindy reported an excellent presentation by Dr. Rob Kingsolver about the opportunities for sustainability education. He also described Bellarmine’s relatively new BS in Environmental Science and BA in Environmental Studies. A panel on waste management and composting gave good background. Curriculum at EKU and Berea were described. The “rotating fund” concept was described.

Preston and Patrick N. reported from a conversation with Richard Trollinger and Clarence Wyatt. Mr. Trollinger was very open to discussion and made three points: Centre needed to raise over $2 million for the VP debate; “tainted money” does not taint the recipient, we are responsible for how we use funds; Centre attempted to model civil discourse and political diversity by balancing AARP with ACCCE. In a frank and wide-ranging discussion the following comments were made: frustration over availability of resources to pursue goals; there are creative solutions that we have not tried; do our reports go to the Trustees; we need general cultural buy-in by all sectors of the college, we need to change attitudes and behaviors of everyone; we should utilize the activism and enthusiasm of students to communicate with administration; we can advocate that sustainability and our commitment to the goals of ACUPCC be incorporated into the “refreshing” of the Strategic Plan; we can consider a “sustainability tip” sort of program to communicate and educate everyone on campus; we should discuss possible policy recommendation about HEV fleet vehicles; attempt more publicity of our meetings among all faculty/staff/students. As summary, this discussion has been useful in galvanizing us to continue efforts to make the ACUPCC commitment, and a sustainability perspective, part of the values of the institution.

Tyler reported on an energy conservation project he and Patrick Lowe are beginning. The first step will be use the recently acquired Kill-a-Watt devices to measure energy use of workstations under different conditions (full use, sleep mode, hibernate, etc). From that information, new practices or policy recommendations can be communicated to everyone or possible technological strategies (Group Policy Object) can be adopted. This was recognized as a good opportunity for
a student project. Cindy suggested follow-up with Forest Stonedahl. This project appears to have great potential.

Preston reported an invitation from other colleges and universities in Kentucky to participate with them in the Campus Conservation Nationals competition. This program encourages conservation by reading water, gas, electricity meters each week of selected buildings and then promoting behavioral change through interscholastic competition. The committee declined.

Cindy reported on success of the Environmental Film Series. Three films were presented with an average attendance of 17 and 27 different students attending. This was discussed as the type of program that increases awareness of sustainability issues campus-wide.

This stimulated discussion of a campus “sustainability week” for spring 2013. The committee felt the efforts of the past two years should be continued. Patrick N., Barrie, Nathan, and Preston volunteered to lead the initial planning stage. (Subsequent to the meeting: speaking fee for Mitchel Thomashow of Second Nature was beyond our range.)

Coming out of discussions at the AASHE/Second Nature regional symposium at Agnes Scott College, Preston suggested that we consider an internal energy efficiency analysis. This would be a compilation of Earthwell reports, our internal energy use data, and Facilities Management assessment of the age/status of building mechanical systems. The concern was that in absence of professional engineering analysis, an internal assessment would not be effective.

Tyler reported a new project in Information Technology Department concerning “rogue” printers. They have discovered several printers on campus, not part of the Ricoh system, that are used very infrequently. Preliminary discussion was that this may represent an energy conservation opportunity that our committee might endorse. Further discussion at next meeting.

Elizabeth G. reported Centre is collaborating in a grant proposal being made by Associated Colleges of the South to the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, for an environmental education program. Centre has submitted its’ portion of the application, final submission in Dec ’12. If funded, Centre would host a workshop in spring 2015.

Dan asked that we continue to support the Air Travel Mitigation Fund. Talking with fellow faculty and students to affirm the value of the program.

Next meeting: January 7, 4:00pm.