The meeting opened with an update from C. Robie on the activities of the Facilities Department. He noted that WSC had met with DCAM about the proposed new academic building. They are thinking about designing the WSC building as a “zero energy building” incorporating geothermal, photo-voltaic, etc. This is an expensive approach but a good step. Alan Mulak will be on campus to complete energy audits for targeted buildings. He will prepare a report that details recommendations and payback periods. C. Robie noted there is still no funding identified from the state to help state agencies such as WSC transition to the EO 484 20% reduction in energy use. C. Robie will be meeting with the Long/Short Range Planning Committee to talk about recommended priorities for building upgrades. Recommendations from this committee then go to the ACC and ultimately the President. Project ideas include: replacing the old boiler at the power plant with new technology; looking into a fuel cell for the power plant; and replacing the a/c in Wilson with a more efficient system.

C. Braun reported that on very short notice Craig Phelon of college media services called and asked him to come and speak with a reporter from Channel 40 about sustainability. He and M. Bull did a very brief taping the afternoon of Monday April 28th.

There was a review of the ranking committee members had completed of the seven ACUPCC actions. There seemed to be some division between selecting items the college has in place (public transportation, LEED building standards and energy efficient appliances) with those that would need financial resources such as getting to the 15% renewables or purchasing carbon offsets. Committee members considered how WSC could further promote public transportation, and A. O’Leary reported there are reserved parking spaces for carpools. C. Braun suggested getting PVTA to extend the area WSC students and staff could ride under the pass arrangement. It was also agreed that this recommendation should be expanded to include encouraging alternative transportation—bikes, foot, etc—not just public transportation. The work of Residential Life in regard to recycling was also noted including recent problems with the bins for cardboard. The committee agreed that the top three vote getters should be considered as equal and for our purposes make up the actions we choose for the first year. These are: e. Within one year of signing this document, begin purchasing or producing at least 15% of our institution’s electricity consumption from renewable sources; g. Participate in the Waste Minimization component of the national RecycleMania competition, and adopt 3 or more associated measures to reduce waste; and d. Encourage use of and provide access to public transportation for all faculty, staff, students and visitors at our institution.

There was a discussion of the top recommendations the committee would like to put forward including looking to having sustainability be an opening day theme.
The committee continued discussion on whether or not WSC can purchase carbon offsets and renewable energy, with consideration of advocating for legislative changes—if necessary—or getting the WS Foundation to make the purchases.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00am.
Respectfully submitted,

Marijoan Bull