

SIU Sustainability Council

Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2015

Members Present: Jerrica Jordan, Deb Sarvela, Jill Johnson, Drew Foxx, Yanna Liang, JD Tanner

Members Absent: Leslie Duram, Chef Bill Connors

Others Present: Kris Schachel

Call to order: 1:09 pm

Approval of March 3rd meeting minutes: Motion by Yanna, 2nd by JD, all in favor.

Approval of today's agenda: Motion by Drew, 2nd by Jerrica, all in favor.

Officer Reports:

Chair Report:

- 1) Travel Awards: Drew thanks all of us for our votes. All travel awards were approved. For the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) conference, we awarded \$828.48 for each person. Drew was fully funded for his trip. We have \$1,343.06 left in the Travel Award budget. This would allow us to fund 1 or 2 more trips this semester.
- 2) New Council Members for 2015-2016: Our returning faculty is Leslie. Returning staff is Deb. Jill and Jerrica will be returning as students. Vicki Kreher will be joining the Council as new faculty. Karen Stallman will be our new staff member. And Cami Sockow will be our new student member. The Council will notify new members by July 1 (this is when the new term starts).
We still need to find an interim Chair for the summer months, to cover Drew since he is graduating

Sustainability Coordinator Report

- 1) Wallace J. Nichols lecture on water was well received. Kris says around 220-300 people attended in the Law School Auditorium. Sally Wright and Kathy Renfro with the Carbondale Park District are thankful for the support. The intended Super Splash Park coming to Carbondale has been a big focal point in local discussions, especially discussions centered around water. The day after the lecture, Nichols was taken out to Touch of Nature to view the grounds and go on Little Grassy Lake.
- 2) Saluki Service Days are April 13-18. Greg Aldrich, the sustainability GA, was interviewed by KFVS channel 12 for the Service Days. As part of this week's activities, there are food donation boxes throughout the dorms and Student Center. There will be St. Baldrick's Day activities. There will also be trail work at Touch of Nature. People have already signed up as volunteers, with 5 people for each afternoon shift. On Thursday, April 16, the Sustainability Office is hosting a Trash Audit on the South lawn of the Student Center. Kris has received permission from the Student Center. This is the first trash audit since 2009. There will be shifts of volunteers from 9 am until 5 pm. Trash from the Student Center will be sorted into categories to see what could be composted, recycled, etc. Then the categories will be weighed and results recorded. On Friday, April 17, LOGIC have a work day and the grounds department will be planting trees. Finally, on Saturday, April 18, Keep Carbondale Beautiful will be hosting their annual city-wide trash pick-up.
- 3) Earth Day is Wednesday, April 22. There will be numerous activities in the Student Center. A "Green Your Selfie" contest will be offered. The idea is to take selfies of yourself in "green" situations, such as with your bike that you rode to campus, you taking out recyclables, or you and some friends planting trees. The idea behind the 4 pm Green Fund reception is to also create some "pomp and circumstance" around the Green Fund proposals. Christie Mathis with University Communications will be sending out more information about Earth Day. As far as advertising for events such as this, the Southern Illinoian usually charges around \$1,500 for ads, but there is a special going on right now for \$300. Kris would like to hear what the Council thinks.
- 4) A great new green activity is geared toward the next class of incoming freshman in the fall of 2015. It is called Dawg Days and will be held out at Touch of Nature. This is an extension of freshman Orientation. According to JD, freshman will be sent out to ToN for 4 days and 3 nights. This will be August 16-19. The goal is to have freshman students become involved in activities prior to the start of their first year of college. This will encourage them to make friends before they even enter the dorms or start their first classes. This is to be a social networking time, geared toward helping students transition to college life better, and teach them about the many great activities that Southern Illinois has to offer. This is one of the best ways to get our "green" spirit integrated into the young students, so it becomes a part of their college career. Both undergraduate and graduate students will be volunteering to help instruct this event. There is a need for 60-80 staff per the 200 freshman students expected to attend. So far, there has been a very positive turnout for volunteers.

Green Fund Committee

- 1) Round 12 report: On April 7, the Green Fund had a 2 ½ hour meeting to discuss the details of these proposals. Ten proposals were selected for funding. This brings a total amount of \$84,171.11. The max amount was to be \$120,000. The budget hammer has fallen due to finances. One of the most important financial discussions at the Green Fund meeting centered around Kris Schachel's position. According to Lori Leffler, there will be no more funding from the state for the future of the Sustainability Council. All funding must now come from the Green Fund, or other types of grants. Originally, half of Kris' salary (around \$22,000) was supposed to come from the Chancellor's budget. Now it must all come from the Green Fund, or out of Kris' pocket. The salary for the half-time graduate assistant in the Sustain office is the only other funding coming from the state. All of this money is now gone, as well. Kris sat down over Easter weekend to figure out a "no frills" very basic budget for the Sustain Coordinator position. If the Green Fund were to absorb all of Kris' salary, as well as that of the Grad assistants, the very basic total is \$91,000. This includes things like health insurance, salaries, etc. Yanna questioned the existence of fringe benefits, which Kris will look into. The amount for this fiscal year was about \$285,000.
- 2) There is a new logo in consideration for the Green Fund. Leslie has been very adamant about SIU marketing itself as a Green School. She is going to work with Ray Goldsmith on this. The idea of a new logo is so that we can have something catchier to put on our fliers, informational handouts, and emails. The GA, Sonya, came up with the current logo. Anyone on the Council with suggestions to improve the logo, let Kris and the GAs know.

Other Council Business

- 1) Coordinator's Salary: As previously mentioned, Kris recently had a meeting with Lori Leffler about the state budget cuts and how this will affect Kris' position in the near future. Drew believes Kris and her position are extremely important to SIU and to the Council. The entire Council agrees. Without Kris, we would not be able to get near as much business accomplished. Kris works full time to make sure marketing, budgeting, and networking happen quickly and efficiently.
- 2) The idea with future budgeting is to be able to keep Kris on the payroll and have enough money to fund projects at least once a year, if we are not able to fund projects once a semester. This will actually give incoming freshman a chance to learn more about the Green Fund and craft ideas for proposals of their own, so that they are ready to submit when the time comes. The Council suggests moving proposals to Spring only. Deb would like to make sure we focus more on proposals that focus on greening our campus, rather than some of the proposals

we have been receiving lately that occasionally have nothing to do with SIU's campus. This will keep the money local and improve our campus significantly, showing that we can become a green school. Kris says that Fall 2015 will be the start of the new proposal year, for the once/year (Spring) time frame. This whole idea buys the Council a bit more time to vote on proposals, as well.

Drew motioned for a change to this proposal timeframe, but the Council decided that we will vote on this through email

Also, Kris' "back-of-the-envelope" budget of \$91,000 is the goal for the Green Fund once/year proposal budget

- 3) Kris loses her contract after June 30, 2015. Motion to approve Kris' budget was moved by JD. 2nd by Jerrica. All in favor. To vote on the Green Fund once per year proposal time frame, there was a motion by Drew. 2nd by Jill and Yanna. All in favor.
- 4) Drew said he will break up acceptance letters to applicants and the Council will split the duty of sending them out. An email on this is forthcoming.

*(Drew will be sending an email out to Jill, Jerrica, and Cami to vote on the new Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary for next school year.)

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm. (This was the last meeting for the 2014-2015 school year. Next meeting for new 2015-2016 year will be this summer.)