

SIU Sustainability Council

Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2015

Members Present: Jill Johnson, Drew Fox, Jerrica Jordan, Leslie Duram, JD Tanner, Deb Sarvela

Members Absent: Yanna Liang (Leslie as proxy), Chef Bill Connors

Others Present: Kris Schachel

Call to Order: 1:12 pm

Approval of Feb. 3, 2015 Minutes: Leslie motioned, all approved.

Approval of today's Agenda: Leslie, motioned, all approved.

Officer Reports

Chair Report:

There is currently \$201,000 unallocated in the Green Fund for the Spring 2015 semester. There are several past rounds still open:

-6<sup>th</sup> Round: There are 2 projects remaining, with a total of \$87,127.40

-9<sup>th</sup> Round: There are 7 projects remaining, with a total of \$49,957.00

-10<sup>th</sup> Round: There are 7 projects remaining, with a total of \$31,187.03

-11<sup>th</sup> Round: There are 11 projects remaining, with a total of \$42,796.64

(the 11<sup>th</sup> Round totals do not include the \$1,500 for compost toilet project)

(\$609.93 was put back into the Green Fund budget due to Michelle leaving SIU to go work for Jackson County Health Department. Ron Dunkel to close Project 104 for the fall—the Health Center Restorative Garden.)

## Membership Updates:

Jill submitted her application for continued membership on the Council for the 2015-2016 school year. A discussion on current members planning to stay followed:

-Students: Jill, Jerrica (Jerrica would like to stay for another term, but is willing to give up her spot to anyone whose major this position could better benefit. Those prospective members include Chris Weston (GIS, Geography) and Camie Sockow (Geography). Drew will be graduating this May, so his spot will be open for a new member.

-Faculty: Leslie would like to stay on for another term, so she needs to reapply, as her term expires this school year. Yanna would like to stay on board for another year. Her term is continuing, as she has time left. So this leaves a spot open for a new faculty member to apply.

-Staff: JD has another year left on his term, so he would like to stay. Deb would also like to stay another term with the Council. So, there will be another spot open for a staff member, as well.

\*Kris is going to update the Sustainability website and send emails to prospective new members. She would like to make use of social media, as well, so our Facebook page will be updated, too. THE DEADLINE FOR ALL APPLICATIONS IS APRIL 1, 2015.

## Travel Awards:

There are 3 travel awards that have been recently submitted:

-Kelsey Kauffman is going on a conference/study abroad to Australia.

-Paul Xavier and David Fowler are going together to a conference for aviation

## Sustainability Coordinator Report

Kris recently renewed the university's membership with AASHE. The cost was \$1,670.00 and is good until March 1, 2016.

Sonya got a new computer at no extra cost. The Sustainability office ordered a stock part, which is now running on Windows 8. The extra money that was saved for this project has been set aside for now.

New Student Programs is going to be giving out free flash drives to incoming students for the 2015-2016 school year. Kris has put together 15MB of info to be added to each flash drive explaining sustainability on the SIU campus to educate new students.

We are half way through Recycle Mania. For the first week (Feb. 1-7) our diversion rate was under 17%. The average for that first week in the past has been 20-24%. Kris has begun an

open discussion with campus Grounds and recycle pick up personnel to spread the word about recycling and boost our percentage.

Greg Aldridge, the current recycling GA for Kris, is working on the Higher Education Institution's recycling rate suggestion. The goal is to maintain a 40% recycling rate (based on 1987 rate). We are already close to this rate overall. The addition of composting on campus will boost this rate.

On March 30, 2015 at 5pm in Guyon Auditorium, there will be a presentation called Women Pioneers of Sustainability. Kris is partnering with the Women's Resource Center. This presentation focuses on women leaders here at SIU and their relationship to sustainability. Speakers include Melinda Yeomans with the Women's Resource Center, Sonya Willis with the Sustainability office (Graduate Assistant), Marybeth Brae with Fisheries, Gabriella Lopez with Linguistics, Kris Schachel with the Sustainability office, and Karen Wolf with Library Affairs.

The J. Wallace presentation on April 8, 2015 is pretty much set. Kris is meeting with the Park District tomorrow. She pointed out the logos of the supporters for this presentation on the bottom of the flyer.

The Green Fund question/answer session went well. There were only four people that showed up, but it was a good, animated discussion. They were new people, as well as Linda with Central IT, who saw our ad in SIU Today.

The mandatory meeting for Green Fund winners has been tabled until the next meeting.

### Green Fund Committee

- Wagner: The Bike Day project has been closed out.
- Epplin: The Recycling Containers project has been closed out.
- Tate: The Electric Vehicle Conversion project has been closed out.
- Duram: The Elkay Water Station project has been closed out.
- \$1,500 was granted toward Touch of Nature's Compost Toilets project.
- Project 108: The GA is still working on it.
- Project 110: It is still being worked on.
- Project 101: Waiting on a bill from PSO.
- Project 109: There has been no response to efforts made to contact them.
- Alternative Spring Break: Getting back to Lori with the close-out.

## Other Council Business

Project 41212 (Cycling and Pedestrian Path): The Council has been told to extend this project. Lori Leffler said do not close this project out yet. Kris talked to Chris Wallace with the City of Carbondale (City Planning). Kevin Behm has also been alerted to this situation. The cost of this project is \$66, 466 (Big City Project, Round 6, Spring 2012). IDOT's review is taking a while.

\*Extension granted from the Council and Green Fund.\*

## Updates

JD: Maple Syrup Festival went well at Touch of Nature. On Day 1, 120 people showed up. On Day 2, 130 people showed up. Community members learned to extract sap from trees and other maple related activities. Touch of Nature is getting ready to host Environmental Education Interpretive Hikes. These will be hikes to places such as Panther's Den, Piney Creek Ravine, and the Cashe River. Students will go with ToN staff to learn about the trails. Then the hikes are open to the public, where students will teach the community what they have learned. The hikes are Thursday and Friday afternoons from 1-5 pm. There will also be lake tours offered through ToN. Next, they are hosting Reel Paddling Film Festival on May 1, 2015. The Saturday after that is a community paddling event. On April 18, 2015, ToN will partner with the SIU Rec Center to host a 5K walk/run through campus woods. That same weekend, there is also a Forestry Conclave/Lumberjack competition. There will be 8-10 different wood competitions going on. In the past, ESPN has come to film this competition, so it is a big event. This event is open to the community. On April 9-11, 2015, ToN is hosting Environmental Education of Illinois. There is a fee for this conference, but anyone interested can attend. There has been a program approved for August Freshman Orientation program at SIU.

Leslie: As head of the Environmental Studies minor, Leslie has seen the program come a long way. There were just 16 minors in the past, and now there are 96. She visits all different classes to promote this minor. Anyone can minor in Environmental Studies. There are 5 classes to take from a list of different categories, so that students are well rounded. This minor works well with a variety of majors. This semester, Leslie has already visited 21 of about 30 classes. Leslie is going to partner with JD for Touch of Nature to promote the Environmental Studies minor to incoming students every August. This will provide good social time and connections. Leslie has made the Council aware that we need to talk with the Director of Communications here at SIU about us being an "Eco" school. We have a history of green projects and need to be better recognized as such. Leslie is going to send an email to the Director of Communications to come up with ideas to promote this measure all over campus and beyond. During Freshman Orientation, JD interviewed students about their favorite reason for coming to SIU. Most students said that the surrounding areas were what brought them down here. There are different colleges we can look to in order to come up with ideas on how to promote ourselves as an Eco school. One college to look to is Appalachian State.

Jill: Suggested promoting SIU as an Eco school through student job training every year. A lot of students work on campus in many different areas, including dining, maintenance, and office jobs. These are areas that generate a lot of waste and energy, so it would be a good idea to train student workers to be more environmentally conscious. Kris mentioned that there is going to be a waste audit done for SIU by Antwan Boulden soon. Meanwhile, Leslie is going to work on an email to Rae Goldsmith to come up with a name to promote SIU and environmentalism.

Deb: Is currently working on her annual report to the Federal and State governments.

### Executive Session

Drew is worried about getting a proxy when it comes to voting on his travel award request. He wants to make sure there is no conflict of interest. The Council is mostly in agreement that he should go on his trip.

Kevin Taylor already accepted an award and went on a trip in October 2014. He cannot go on more than one trip funded by the Council in the same school year. Drew will further investigate this matter.

\*The next Sustainability Council meeting is April 3, 2015.\*

Meeting adjourned at 2:04 pm.