

SIUC Sustainability Council
Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Minutes

1. Call To Order:

Members Present: Cami Sockow, Jill Johnson, Yanna Liang, Vicki Kreher, Deb Sarvela, Leslie Duram, Karen Stallman

Others Present: Geory Kurtzhals

Members Absent: JD Tanner, Jerrica Jordan

2. Approval of Aug. 28 minutes
Deb moved, Yanna second, all in favor.

3. Sustainability Travel Awards

a. Amount?

b. How Often?

The Travel Awards have traditionally been available to any SIU student wishing to travel to a sustainable conference. The students can come from any major, they just need to make sure the conference they choose has a sustainability theme.

As a Council, we need to decide how much money we have to work with per semester or academic year, how much to award each student, etc. This money comes out of the Green Fund.

Leslie notes that the Green Fund is pretty detailed to fill out. She hosts a mock trial every semester for her class to fill out a mock proposal, and a lot of these come with road blocks. Students applying for a Travel Award need to do their research on all fronts (from location of conference, conference theme, to lodging and other possible avenues for funds, besides just the Green Fund).

It has been first come, first serve in the past for these awards. Cami proposes a deadline and allocated amount per semester or year.

Karen asked how we determine who gets to go to the AASHE conference? Right now it is Geory, Cami, and the other GA Greg going. This conference can be pricy but worth it.

Leslie even asked: Do we want to have a Travel Award vs. Green Fund? Do we need both?

We need to find list of past awardees to compare and contrast on how to award future students.

There does not seem to be any information about Travel Awards in our Operating Papers. Perhaps we need to change that.

Geory asks: Have students followed through in the past with their presentations once they have attended the conference of their choice? We should make sure attendees have some kind of a presentation to give to the Council. Leslie makes note of how long and drawn out some past presentations have been, so the students need to work on summing them up, and/or sending us via email or something.

Leslie and Cami like the idea of having a percentage.

Yanna makes a point: The Green Fund award is a higher amount, so shouldn't we have more stipulations on that one? More effort put forth from the applicant, and stricter enforcement?

Vicki suggests we host a night where conference attendees present on their trip to a public audience, for anyone who would like to attend. Cami notes, however, that not all the Travel Award money was given out in the past, and Leslie also notes that these conferences are not always widely known about, so would it be worth having a whole night of presentations? Maybe a final report would be the better way to go.

Geory made a suggestion: Based on her previous school, if a student wanted to go to a conference, they were responsible for paying at least 50% of the cost on their own.

4. Green Fund Timeline (there have already been inquiries)

The current Green Fund amount for the Fall 2015 is \$157,824.

(This is according to Lori, minus Geory's salary.)

The final vote on percentage and deadlines is as follows:

"Up to" 2%, allocated. This was strongly encouraged by Karen. Approved by Cami as well. Yanna points out that there are not a lot of students on campus in the summer, so how are we going to deal with that when it comes to the deadline? And Cami has had a few "early bird" applicants trying to register for their conferences early to they can save money.

Deadlines: For the Fall semester, have a July 1 – Oct. 1 application deadline. For the Spring semester, have a Dec. 1 – March 1 deadline. People wanting to attend a conference for summer or a year ahead should choose appropriate deadlines.

Communication is key. Deb says that as long as we put down these deadlines, if anyone has questions, they should feel free to contact the Council so we can discuss the issues.

Leslie is adamant about making sure the application states that the attendee should not present to the Council upon returning from the conference. This takes up too much time during a meeting, when other issues are more pressing.

Karen seconds Leslie, stating that we need to put our stipulations in writing, and maybe even add this to the Operating Papers.

Deb says we can make it an addendum, where things are not necessarily set in stone.

So, the motion to approve the new Travel Award procedures:
Leslie motioned, Yanna second, all in favor.