

Sustainability Council
Minutes of January 24, 2014 meeting

Members PRESENT: Eric Wilber, Kris Schachel, Drew Foxx, Deb Sarvela, Jill Johnson, Leslie Duram

Members ABSENT: Craig Anz, Chef Bill Connors

Others Present: Jeff Goelz (proxy for Corne), Roy Buck, Myah Gary, Janet Donoghue, Amber Bratsch (also for Corne)

Called to order 2:06 pm

Leslie made a motion to approve the agenda, and Deb seconded; agenda approved.

Jill made a motion to approve the minutes from November 19, and Drew seconded; minutes approved.

Chair's Report

Eric explained his IDOT internship and resulting availability (pretty much weekend). He resigned from GPSC, and begins full-time preparation for the bar exam a couple weeks after final exams. Therefore, he would like to begin transitioning the Council to a new chairperson in early May.

For Sustainability future planning effort, he recommended this spring we examine our internal operations (Green Fund, Operating Papers, etc.) and strive for better integration of Council/Office/Team. While realizing long-term planning will outlast his own remaining time, Eric wants to get the process started – so a visioning session will be planned for February.

He also reported on website improvements, and it was discussed and agreed that a link would be added for the Environmental Studies program [see sustainability.siu.edu/resources/sustainability-curriculum/] Eric also explained his review and reorganization of past files in the Sustainability Google Drive. A news item released earlier in the day about SIU moving from Google Drive to SkyDrive Pro was discussed briefly.

Coordinator's Report

All three Sustainability Graduate Assistants introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of what they're working on:

- Roy Buck, helped with completion of the STARS assessment last fall and this semester will be working to gather data for a Climate Action Plan and seeking carbon reduction strategies.
- Janet Donoghue, is the Team's jack-of-all-trades, currently working on our first newsletter and also programming to spotlight green jobs (thanks to Leslie for alumni suggestions so far).
- Myah Gary is new this semester, and overseeing Recycling. Her first big project is organizing for and promoting RecycleMania, which runs February 2 through March 29.

Kris reported that SIU Sustainability would have a presence at several upcoming events: Dawgs Nite Out, Non-Traditional Student Services Family Carnival, and even the Multi-Cultural Festival at CCHS. She reported on a growing partnership with Morris Library staff, and the possibility of a spring break externship (Alumni Assoc.) that would assist the vermicompost center in getting some dilapidated equipment back in working order. For Earth Day, SIU will host filmmaker Josh Fox on April 21, and Sustainability will partner with Student Center/SPC on April 22 – because SPC is bringing the 'Campus Consciousness Tour' for Spring Fest that day. The new aerated static pile (ASP) compost facility is not up

and running yet as planned due to bad weather construction delays. AASHE membership dues are \$1,670 and due by March 1.

Eric raised the issue of not having someone in the Council Secretary role, explaining it's not too much of an additional time commitment and would be very valuable to have another voice/vote on the executive committee. Deb made a motion for Jill to be Secretary, and Drew seconded; approved by acclamation. Further regarding Council makeup, Corne and Chef Bill's terms both end July 1 – so be thinking of possible members to recruit.

Eric discussed the Sustainability Network. The plan for it to function similar to social media (using BuddyPress) was too ambitious for current staffing resources, and he wants to get the Network PROMOTED. All Council members have joined except Chef Bill. The Network has about 30 members so far, and we'll plan a launch event soon.

There was discussion about funding mechanism for Green Fund-supported REACH Awards, with the disjointed timelines. Eric will seek greater understanding from the REACH administrators, and perhaps report back with more information next meeting.

There was discussion about Sustainability Travel Awards and how to advertise that opportunity. For spring and summer 2014 semesters, \$7,000 has been allotted.

Green Fund call for proposals will circulate soon; the application deadline is March 21. The anticipated announcement date for awards is April 22, Earth Day. GF committee will meet to discuss and rank the proposals. A full Council approval vote on committee recommendations will be conducted via email since the next Council meeting isn't scheduled until April 25.

The Council discussed replacing the faculty vacancy left by Steve Belletire's resignation. Two candidates, J.K. Roth and Yanna Liang, were in the running to serve out the remainder one-semester term. Vote was taken by secret ballot, and J.K. Roth was voted in.

Leslie made a motion to adjourn, and Deb seconded; motion approved. Adjourned 3:19 pm