

SIUC Sustainability Council

Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2014

Members Present: Drew Foxx, JD Tanner, Jill Johnson, Leslie Duram, Deb Sarvela

Others Present: Kris Schachel

Call to Order: 2:08 pm

Approval of meeting minutes from Sept. 26, 2014: Leslie approved; Deb 2nd. All in favor.

Approval of today's agenda: Drew approved; Deb 2nd. All in favor.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee

A travel award for Jonathan Flowers has been approved.

Prabisha and Richard: Going to the Cities Alive Green Roof tour in Nashville, TN. We still need to vote on these awards.

Kevin Taylor sent us his final report, but was unable to attend the meeting due to teaching a class. Drew will forward this report to the Council via email.

Green Fund

Approved 13 of 22 proposals. Total amount \$77, 702.34. Drew will forward this info to the Council via email.

We still need to send out rejection letters. Those will be sent out soon. We rejected 8 in all.

Checking up on past Rounds, Round 6 is still in the works. Drew suggests splitting these Rounds up among Council members.

ABS Final Report

Jo Howd was an awardee from last Spring. She sent her final report in October of this year.

## Officer Reports:

### Chair Report

Fiscal year 2015 budget was sent by Lori Leffler to Drew. Unused funds stand at \$97,724.64 to date. For Spring 2015, we will be receiving student fee funding again, and will add this amount to the budget. This should give the Council plenty of money to work with.

More on the Rounds: Round 6 stands at \$108,300. Round 8 stands at \$1,470.56. Round 9 stands at \$77,656. Round 10 stands at \$108,590. The Council needs to contact the people associated with these projects and get updates.

Today, Kris received the Monthly Budget Report. There were 4 different reports for the Bike Repair Stations. Kris received enough money to go ahead and put in the order for these stations. We still need to find out the specific locations where these will be placed on campus. This was a Spring 2014 101 project.

Kris also needs to send Lori Leffler a notice to transfer funds to the allocated fund.

An extension for the REACH project has been made through Dec. 2015. This deadline was put in the original application.

### Sustainability Coordinator

Sustainability Day was a success. The "Sustainival" took place in the Student Center and was well-attended. The Yoga session was a hit, and the Daily Egyptian ran a cover page story the next day on this event. The showing of the film "Plastic Paradise" brought in around 20 people. The conversations after the showing went well. Sally Wright of the Rec Center would like to reach out to the U-COL instructors to show "Plastic Paradise" in its first-year new student programs. This would be a way to reach out to campus on a wider scale about sustainability. Kris has purchased the DVD with unlimited screening rights, so if anyone on the Council would like to borrow it, come see her.

Kris attended the AASHE Conference in Portland, OR. She said it was a great program this year. She learned that the best way to reach the newest generation of college students is not through Facebook and Twitter, but Instagram. She will be looking into this. Kris also sat in on other sessions at the Conference, to be shared at a later date with the Council.

Budget Note: Sustainability Council has a state account that pays for a Grad Assistant, around \$20,000 or so. Kris had to pay back \$626 to the state account budget, a figure that was not in her original activity budget.

This past Friday, there was an email received regarding Illinois Solid Waste Management. Illinois now requires all schools to come up with guidelines for their waste management on campus by April 1, 2015.

This week there was an Auxiliary Director meeting to bring back the Director of Student Affairs. Kris is going to find out the goals of the Sustainability Office for this. Any input from Council members is greatly appreciated.

## Other Council Business:

### Discussion

Jill asked if the future Aerated Composting System on campus would be included in the Solid Waste Management guidelines. Kris informed the Council that, yes, this will be included. The current rates for recycling of (glass, plastics, paper, cardboard) on SIUC campus are between 22-23%. The national average is 44%. This is based on the Princeton review of Green schools. The Council agrees that SIUC could be doing a lot more to be "green" and that the opportunities exist.

Jill brought up the continual waste in the dining halls, specifically Trueblood, where Jill works. The dining program on campus went to an unlimited meal plan this school year. This has caused the amount of business in the dining halls to double, at least. Due to this, there is more associated waste of food, general garbage, and cardboard. There is also concern for the paper waste from the offices. Currently, Trueblood has one cardboard cart and one cart for plastics/cans. These carts get emptied about once a week. If we cannot get them emptied more frequently, then there needs to be a second cardboard cart brought into Trueblood. It is currently unknown exactly what happens with the paper waste from the office, but recently Jill found a container on the dock out back of the building with paper that had sat there untouched for at least a month. Kris will look into options with the Grounds Department for better management of pickup scheduling and container provision.

After this discussion, Drew brought up the notion that the Council has been trying to plan for some time to have different projects around campus that showcase different sustainability issues. Jill's issue with dining hall waste is a good place to start. We may be able to put in place a building-by-building audit to see where problems with waste and energy exist. Jill also mentioned the future destruction of the high-rise tower housing and subsequent rebuilding thereafter. What happens to all the items in the basement of the Towers? What happens to the construction waste? These are great items of important discussion for the future of the Council. If any members have thoughts in the meantime, speak up and we will record them for future discussion.

### Completed Activities

STARS was completed recently. We also fixed the PDF for Sustain Council online.

Outreach was completed to the campus.

The Chancellor's Report was a success, but was not in as much detail this time. Bullet point format should be fine from now on.

The signage for the Vermicomposting Center has been a tough sell. Leslie has had nothing but problems trying to have signage made that tells of the various activities that are housed within the Center. Apparently, there are complications and stipulations concerning signage on campus. The deal is that a sign can only be made for actual buildings, not the projects that take place in those buildings. So, even though the Vermicomposting Center houses the Hoop House and LOGIC Organic student garden as well, the sign cannot say this. It can only be labeled for

the building itself. The most recent way around this that Leslie was able to get completed was to hand-paint a sign for the LOGIC garden, telling people where it was located off of Pleasant Hill road. Frustrations remain with this project, because a lot of people do not know what the Vermicomposting Center is, what it does, or what it houses, let alone directions on how to get there.

Jill asked if there are ways to be involved on the Council without being a member. There are ways and Kris will look into those.

Eric Wilber had a few suggestions from last year:

Re-establish the Student Liaison with Undergraduate Student Government. Drew found that he did not have a very positive experience with being a liaison. The USG has not listed what each organization does, so Drew is not sure if they will list the benefits of the Sustainability Council and what we do. Kris said the original intention was an attempt to build bridges between the Green Fund and the students who are funding it. Can the Council work on making this project a focus?

For the U-COL programs, Leslie has spoken to their instructors to see about including a sustainability focus in those classes.

Final report policies: Green Fund fixed the application PDF online. The approval Rubric for Travel Awards does not seem conducive in every aspect, according to Deb. Eric had said that improving this system was a must. For example, the section titled "funding from other places" often gets a bad grade for applicants due to the small size of the requested award and trip. There may not be any outside funding available, and the Council needs to keep this in mind. Deb also mentioned that the Center for Environmental Health and Safety has standards here on campus. In the past, there were EPA and Health Department permits needed for certain projects. We should have a plan put into place for retiring old mechanical equipment and hazardous materials here on campus. Some of these items are dangerous and toxic and need to be handled properly and with better regulations.

Drew will email the Council the most recent Final Report to the Chancellor.

Kris mentioned that she often gets asked by Daily Egyptian interviewers, "What are the cost savings?" when talking about a recent project that the Council funded. Often times, she does not have an answer, because with some projects, it is not about the cost savings, but more about the resource savings, as also backed up by Deb. The Council agrees that a lot of "green" projects are expensive outright, but save money and resources in the long run.

JD gave the Council a rundown of the composting toilets at Touch of Nature. So far, they are doing well. The toilets need little maintenance, with only one major cleaning of the system about once a year. The system uses grates and airflow to sort solid and liquid human waste and to filter it to keep sanitation to a high standard. This has been very successful.

Drew mentioned the Living and Learning Community programs on certain floors in the residence halls. These programs would be a great place to start incorporating Sustainability

activities and education. This could be taught to fellow students by the LLC members as a great way to spread the movement around campus.

Eric had another suggestion about Performance Contracting for green buildings. This never went thought in years past, but Drew has looked into this, and there are a lot of government incentives and loans available.

Deb brought up the recent push to "kill coal." Coal can be clean if managed properly, she argues. Deb suggests using a "blended" approach to energy management, buy using current methods with new ones. This will be the most realistic and probably the most successful management of the energy crisis.

Kris is moving forward on completing the Climate Action Plan. She met recently with Roy, who started it last year, and Chris Weston, a current Geography student. Chris would like to pick up the baton on this project. Since Chris also teaches a class in Geography, the Council would like to see if he is eligible to fill the current Faculty vacancy spot on the Council.

JD would like the Council to coordinate with Touch of Nature on future sustainability plans. The 5-K Rocky Ledges Campaign is April 18, 2015, right before Earth Day. JD is interested in hosting an Earth Day event at Touch of Nature, in correlation with the Council.

Drew said the Green Fund received an email recently that the IFCC would like us to present for the Council. There is a conference on Saturday, Nov. 15, 2014 from 10am until 4 pm in Chicago. If anyone is interested in attending and presenting, let Drew know.

#### Move to Executive Session

Drew and Jill stayed to discuss the Travel Awards. There are 2 travel awards that still need approval: Prabisha Shrestha and Richard Little. Prabisha has now requested a much lower amount of \$125, which has been approved. Richard is asking for \$753, but is matching \$500 of his own money. The Green Fund can approve a total of \$450 for both travel awards. This leaves the Green Fund with \$3,118.98. So far this year, we have allocated \$2,881.02 in funds. There have been 5 travel awards so far this year.

A follow-up meeting will be discussed via email at a later date.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.