

Sustainability Council

Minutes of March 21, 2014 meeting

Members PRESENT: Eric Wilber, Kris Schachel, Jill Johnson, Drew Foxx, Corne Prozesky, Leslie Duram, Chef Bill Connors, Kevin Roth

Members ABSENT: Yanna Liang (on business) and Deb Sarvela

Others Present: Janet Donoghue

Called to Order: 2:04 pm

Corne made a motion to approve the agenda; Chef Bill seconded; agenda approved.

Jill made a motion to approve the minutes and Visioning Session from Feb. 28; Chef Bill seconded; minutes approved.

Officer Report

Reviewed was the spreadsheet of funds for the Green Fund, sent out by Eric. There are 14 projects from last fall, and 5 projects from the previous year. There are also a few others left over from previous years (Spring 2011).

This was a hectic past week for the Council. There were 4 main issues that happened:

Issue #1

Eric and Kris are going to meet with Lori Stettler on Monday. We may be required to pay rent of around \$7,000/year for space in the Student Center. The new space we have for the Sustainability office is almost too visible. Solutions to this problem are being thought of, and if anyone has any suggestions, please come forward.

Issue #2

There is another migration possible concerning our site, in addition to the University-wide migration to Office 365 already taking place. We just launched our site 13 months ago, and are now going to be required to migrate to a new website in October of this year. We may create a website Grad Assistant position to help remedy this situation. The main problem here is that it will cost \$\$ for a GA.

Issue #3

The fiscal officer has been contacted in regards to income interest. We have only received \$880 to date. This has been the worst year for interest income in SIU's recent memory. There is \$4,500 in interest allocation in our original budget, leaving us a \$3,000 hole in the budget.

Issue #4

The Coordinator's salary is in debate at the moment. Her salary is currently paid for ½ by the Council and ½ by the Chancellor. The understanding was that the original deal was a 50/50 split to extend through the next year. Apparently, this is not the case, however. There will be a meeting next week with Lori Stettler to figure this out. In the meantime, the Green Fund will also be taking a look at this issue to try and find possible solutions.

A short discussion of issues in connection with this occurred, including a discussion of the other people in the office:

Janet is Kris' "right hand woman." Janet is the Sustain GA; she picks up Kris' projects, preps for print promotions, handles programming, tours, proof reading, and any other business that Kris needs help with. Janet's position is a "jack-of-all-trades."

Roy Buck deals with special projects. He headed the STARS program and is currently underway with the Climate Action Plan.

Mya is our Graduate Recycling Coordinator, in charge of events such as Earth Day and Recycle Mania.

Next, we discussed in detail the \$7,000 rent issue:

The Women's Resource Center pays rent in the building and the Council is trying to figure out if anyone else pays rent for their locations. The Council is completely fee-funded per student fees, so do we really have to pay extra rent since the Student Center itself is also already funded by students? Eric will be meeting with Lori Stetler on Monday and have a detailed report for the Council at a later date.

Green Fund Applications

Noon was the deadline today for Green Fund applications. We have received 18 applications total, requesting \$265,307.35. An additional \$25,000 on top of the \$150,000 baseline is an option for allocation. Over time, the quality of the proposals has gone up, so this is good news. The online rubric for rating the proposals has helped increase the quality. We have received a lot of good proposals, ranging from gardens, to energy, to even a sustainable shower for the Rec center.

April 4 at 2 pm will be the next Green Fund meeting. It will be in the Rec Center on the 2nd floor conference rooms. Eric and Corne are going to meet this coming Monday to discuss general issues.

Membership

The Council has had a bit of a turnover rate recently as far as membership is concerned. New members Yanna and Kevin have been taken into consideration as far as when their term ends, due to the nature of being brought onto the Council in the middle of a term. Normally, July 1st is the end of faculty terms. However, Kevin announced some rather sad news that he will be giving up his full position. Kevin plans to try and stay as active on the Council as he can, so if an ad hoc position comes available, he would love to remain a part of activities and happenings. In the meantime, the Council will put up an application for his position.

Student members (Jill, Drew, and Eric) are on a one-year basis. These members have been offered the option of another year term with the Council for the 2014-2015 school year. Eric will be graduating May 10. Anyone interested in Eric's position on the Council for the coming school year, please talk to him.

Chef Bill, Deb, Kris, and Leslie are still on the Council for another year, as per their two-year terms. Corne's term is up this year, as he has already been a member of the Council for two years.

*On April 21, member applications are due, so that the Council can discuss the outcomes at the April 25 meeting, which will be our last meeting for this school year.

Website

Cascade is a new content manager for the website starting in October-November. This seems to be a less user-friendly version than what we have previously worked with, as the Sustainability website has run on a more blog-like outline. Now, we are going to have to move along with the migration.

Another question for the Council is how much longer Google Drive will remain working? Sky Drive has issues, it is just not feasible yet to get all members on the same page, so to speak, when it comes to viewing and transferring or saving documents. For now, we are still using Google Drive. Leslie heard a rumor that as of June 1st, all Google will be gone. If this is the case, we need to discuss options for backing up Drive files.

Kris' Coordinator Report

Kris found out more news. Tommy Holder, who operates SIU's recycling truck, may be retiring. The biggest concern here is that campus recycling may be in jeopardy. Tommy has put in many faithful years with SIU, and it will be a shame to see him go. Anyone with any ideas about this newest crisis, please speak with Kris.

This morning, there was a Sustainability Procurement meeting. Office Max may be providing a vendor who will explain and promote green office products here on campus.

Kris is working with the Student Center to discuss space for Earth Day activities and the Office Max vendors.

April 4, there is an efficiency event in Chicago that Kris will be attending. She is taking the train to this event.

Janet handed out fliers to everyone concerning the Imagining Geographies events for the continuation of this semester. The Josh Fox lecture on fracking is April 21 at 7pm. For the Solutions Project (thesolutionsproject.org), Josh Fox has been involved. The purpose of this project is to see how all 50 states may be able to transfer to fully renewable energy options in the near future.

On April 21 from 10:30 to noon Janet is helping host a brunch at the Friends Room at Touch of Nature. This brunch will feature local and seasonal foods. There will be a 5-7 minute speech on the Solutions Project at this event. Janet would like to request that the Sustainability Council members be present at this event. This will send a great message to the community and our support will be greatly appreciated. Janet is planning on selling tickets for this event. The event will also highlight the topics of energy and renewable options, and how the community can become involved in the process. Janet would also like to see if the Council can partially or fully fund this event. The price tag is around \$2,000 total. The Green Fund cannot help here since this event takes place before their next meeting. Since this event centers around food, she is going to see if there is a way to get approved vendors or catering, such as Cristados. Chef Bill was asked, but per the regulations of his job title with SIU, he is not allowed to cater an event like this.

At this time, the Council should be prepared to receive a proposal for the April 21 brunch from Janet. The plan is to have the Sustainability Council support it, but the Green Fund committee fund it. The cost includes food, rent, transportation, and the main day's events. Janet is going to get a proposal together and send it through the executive board.

Leslie would also like to be able to tell her students about this brunch event, so she can plan accordingly.

Chef Bill will look into the dining halls as an option for a place to host future brunch events. Also, we can take a look at the LOGIC garden to see what produce they have available.

Old Business

During the January meeting, REACH was a topic of discussion—they have not claimed their money yet for this year. Next year they are going to be a Green Fund project. Eric called and talked to the REACH people. There is an awards ceremony on April 7th. The new council is to be in contact in September to discuss REACH allocations for the following fiscal year.

For the Visioning session held during the February 28 meeting, Chef Bill and Leslie were unable to attend, so they have an opportunity at this time to write up their opinions and have them incorporated into the final Visioning session notes. The Council will then discuss these final notes at the April 25th meeting.

New Business

The Curriculum Committee discussion is being tabled for now and will have a discussion in the future.

For the Green Fund Allocations vote by email, there was a motion by Leslie, 2nd by Kevin, with none opposed or abstained. So this passed during this meeting by a total voice vote.

The Council would like to see an academic department that focuses on energy. This has not happened as previously thought (the main focus has always been on fossil fuels). If the Sustainability Council is not present, then the campus would just continue on as always. The Council then discussed various options. *We are going to table this topic and have further discussion about it at the April 25 meeting.

Operating Papers

A draft is to be started in connection with some updates that need to be made to the Operating Papers, including the Coordinator's position and switching from the VCAF to Lori Stettler. Leslie has proposals, as does Chef Bill. Discussions and edits are continuing. We discussed how some of the Council members on the Green Fund Committee are involved in other things, which may result in a conflict of interest that needs to be addressed. This discussion will also be tabled for the future.

Travel Awards

Money was given to a student recently to go on a trip, but then their car broke down and they were unable to attend, so the Council received that money back into the funds.

The original deadline for Travel Award applications is May 1, 2014. We wonder if it should be made for April 1, because there have been a lot of applications recently, and this would give the Council time to discuss funding. The Council only has between \$1,300 and \$1,400 left to give out.

Green Fund Committee

For our next meeting of the Green Fund, held April 4 in the Rec Center, Kris will be absent, but Kevin would like to attend.

Eric is to send out details of the issues that happened this week. We can look over the spreadsheet of funding in the meantime. In the past, the Council has always tried to keep some money in the budget. So we are starting to plan for the coming school year.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:38 pm.