

**SMU Sustainability Committee  
10/14/09 Meeting Minutes**

Approval of September minutes

- Motion: Jesse Miller; Second: Laura Schur
- Motion Passed

Dr. Kevin Salfen was nominated by Kim Cobb to fill one of the open Member at Large positions. Kevin is a Visiting Assistant Professor and Acting Chair of Music History for the Meadows School of the Arts.

- Motion: Kim Cobb; Second: Troy Behrens
- Motion Passed

Michael Paul reviewed Committee member expectations regarding participation throughout the year.

- We appreciate having all of you serving on the committee to help SMU become a more sustainable institution.
- To be successful and progress towards goals, we need everyone's active participation beyond attendance at the monthly meeting of the full Committee.
- Active participation includes serving on a subcommittee and attending or volunteering at Sustainability Committee sponsored events.
- If at any time, you feel your current commitments will prevent you from being able to participate fully on this committee, please work with the Committee Chair and your supervisor, department or organization to identify a replacement.

Proposal was made for the establishment of a Recyclemania Subcommittee

- Michael Paul provided a brief explanation of how this annual event ties into the Presidential Climate Commitment.
- Colleges and universities across the country participate in this ten week long recycling competition. Last year was the first year that SMU participated. We participated at the Benchmarking level and not the Competition level.
- With the timing of the start of the event (mid January) it is important that a team start planning SMU's participation for 2010.
- The subcommittee will be co-chaired by Dr. Kevin Salfen and Andrea Fernandez. The preference is to have the subcommittee be mainly student driven since that is how it happens on most other campuses.
- Motion: Kevin Salfen; Second: Eric English.
- Motion Passed

Upcoming Event: Campus Sustainability Day

- National day – October 21<sup>st</sup>
- Will have tent by flagpole from 11 am to 1 pm
- Winners of Green Minute video contest will be revealed. We will definitely have participants. A professor assigned it as a class project. Professor Rick Worland will be assisting with the judging.
  - First place – video show on the web page; \$300 and a Kit Kat afternoon bike tour
  - Second Place - \$200 and \$100 Green Living gift card
  - Third Place - \$100 and \$25 Green Spot gift card and items from Whole Earth Provision
- Aramark is participating and will have snacks and a display
- Faculty, staff, and student will sign a pledge to be more sustainable in their lives and sign a pony to put on display affirming their pledge. Will be providing a small card with some tips.
- Environmental Jeopardy game with prizes for top point scorers (\$50, \$25, and \$25)
- Need volunteers to help at the event – passing around a sign up sheet.
- Please put up a flyer by our office or room to promote

## College and University Sustainability Report Card

- Fourth year for this annual scorecard
- Summary from Michael Paul:
  - We got the same overall ranking: C+
  - We changed in five areas (down in two and up in three):
    - Green Building A to B (down)
    - Student Involvement C to B (up)
    - Transportation B to A (up)
    - Endowment Transparency D to F (down)
    - Investment Priorities B to A (up)
  - Areas unchanged:
    - Administration C
    - Climate Change and Energy C
    - Food and Recycling B
    - Shareholder Engagement F
- The following Texas Universities:
  - Rice B
  - UT Austin B-
  - Texas A&M B-
  - University of Houston B-
  - SMU C+
  - Southwestern C+
  - Baylor C
  - Trinity C
  - TCU C-
  - UT Dallas C-
  - Texas Tech D+
  - Abilene Christian University D

You can see more details at:

The embargoed version of the *College Sustainability Report Card 2010* is available at:  
<http://embargoed.greenreportcard.org/>.

Username: reportcard2010

Password: sustainability

### Overall discussion/explanation of outcome:

- Looking for pretty substantial changes to see a movement in grades
- Endowment out of our scope/control – can only make suggestions not changes
- Endowment is a tough area for a private institution to make any progress because the institution does not like to share much about its financials.
- Have to prove you are doing things and not just say you are or are going to do something
- We have gone up since it started
- The distribution is a straight bell curve: about 70% always get a C
- The Administration score will not go up until the Climate Commitment is signed. Michael Paul reminded us that he is the hold out on that since we do not yet have a feasible plan to go carbon neutral (and pay for it) that is such a big part of that.
- We did go down with regards to our ranking with other Texas schools – not good considering all the work we did do last year.

## Subcommittee Reports

### Purchasing

#### Sustainability Fair

- Lesson learned is that we need to extend personal invitations/requests to upper administration to attend events. There were not any Vice Presidents or Deans in attendance.
- We need buy in and support from top down to make major changes

#### Purchasing Policy

- Address cost efficiency of practices by including language about when practical, economical, etc.
- Used other institutions' policies as a starting point and then adjusted to SMU's needed
- Received 5 recommendations
- Determined Fair Trade is covered under other language
- Added language to discourage use of Styrofoam
- Aramark improve efforts for organic options in dining services
- When possible and practical, Energy Star certified appliances should be purchased by faculty, staff, and students

Motion to pass: Troy Behrens; Second: Laura Schur

#### Motion passed

- Next step is to submit committee's recommendation to administration for their review and approval

### Recycling and Waste Mgt.

- The committee had to select a new standard casual container for University common areas. The vendor could not get the lid we had selected.
- The new container selected has a lid that designates that it is single stream
- The new containers will not say SMU – would slow down the timeframe for shipment and it was determined that we do not want "SMU" on containers that hold waste.
- Education and Outreach will work on signs to go with the containers on the do's and don'ts of recycling

Motion to approve: Troy Behrens; Second: Stanley Stubblefield

#### Motion passed

- The new containers will be ordered
- Will start with classrooms and hallways with first focus being the new Prothro building in Theology Quad
- A student worker has been going around to take "before pictures" of what we currently have and then will do a follow up "after" pictures.

#### General group discussion and questions:

- Boulevard recycling – working on a 1:1 ration with each trash drum on the Boulevard
- Attempted outdoor recycling through placement in parking garages and it was a failed experiment
- Need to be successful inside first before tackling outdoors. Outdoor receptacles are very expensive
- Dedman Center needs more visible recycling locations
- Terry Connor brought up that the new Coca Cola contract includes recycling containers. We do not want them: not enough, have their advertising, and they are red instead of blue.
- Suggestion was made that in new building design, locations for recycling receptacles should be included. Nooks or space is needed in areas like break rooms and halls.

### Student Reports

- Awakening the Dreamer has been postponed until second semester. The Chaplain's Office will be providing support. The original date was the same as the PSAT and they want more high school support in attendance.