

SMU Sustainability Committee Minutes
September 9, 2009

May 2009 Minutes

- Bonnie Jacobs made a motion to approve them. Melissa Humanson seconded. Motion passed

Approval of new OIT member - Jesse Miller

- Cori Cusker made a motion to accept him. Terry Conner seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of amendment of Bylaws changing membership from 26 to 27 to account for addition of Office of Information Technology member.

- Tony Tomlinson made a motion to approve change. Stanley Stubblefield seconded. Motion passed.

Reports on Upcoming Events

Sustainability Fair:

Report by Terry Connor. To be held on 9/17 from 10 am to 1:30 pm in Hughes Trigg Ballroom. Speaker at 10 am. Yalmaz Siddiqui, Office Depot's Director of Environmental Strategy, will present an hour long discussion on improving the understanding of environmental issues and opportunities among suppliers, associates and customers. Encourage people to come. Current vendors will be in attendance so there should not be a concern about getting sales pitches. Will also have demonstrations by vendors.

Green Festival:

Report by Hannah Kolni. To be held on 9/20 from 11 am to 3 pm at Bath Cultural House at White Rock Lake. Sponsored by City of Dallas. Open to public and free. Will have a variety of green focused organizations and businesses. SMU has a booth.

Awakening the Dreamer:

Report by Christina Kelly (Environmental Society Representative). To be held on 10/14 from 10 am to 1pm at McFarlin Auditorium. A symposium raising awareness of spiritual, social justice and environmental issues. Open to public. Would like to see faculty, staff, and students in attendance. Sent invitations to area high schools and Woodrow Wilson plans to send students. Organized by the Environmental Society and supported by SMU Center for the Environment.

Miscellaneous Reports

Residence Life and Student Housing (RLSH) E-Rep Program:

- Report from Cori Cusker.
- This program is being financially supported by the Sustainability Committee. Thank you to Michael Paul for making that happen.
- This program is a residentially based peer education program. Each E-Rep is assigned specific residential communities on campus to provide peer education to residents on a variety of environmental and sustainable based topics. The E-Reps will meet once a month for training, education and to discuss programming and educational campaign ideas. The E-Reps are co-supervised by Cori Cusker and Antron Mahoney.
- This is the third year for the program, but the first year the participants are paid. Cori Cusker completed research and benchmarking with regards to programs at other institutions. Based on the research, the program was revamped to be more education based and more structured.

Carbon Neutral Football Game Proposal:

- Report from Michael Paul
- Several other institutions have done similar events. Provost and President Turner supported idea to pursue similar concept for an SMU football game. The Executive Committee drafted and submitted a letter to the Athletic Director. No response has been given. Goal is to make the request this year with the hope that it will be considered for next year.

- The question was posed – how do you make a game carbon neutral? First, you have to estimate the carbon emissions for an average football game. Then you identify multiple ways to eliminate and reduce carbon footprint. These ways would include increased promotion of recycling during tailgating and the game; providing alternative transportation; reducing waste produced. Would need many volunteers and lots of publicity and education to successfully accomplish this program. Would fill in remainder by purchasing carbon credits from a reputable company. All of this would require money.

ACUPCC/Sustainability Report Card:

- Report from Michael Paul.
- To sign the President's Climate Commitment, would need Michael's endorsement. The biggest hurdle is coming up with a plan to become carbon neutral which is one of the major requirements. This must occur within two years of signing the commitment and there must be demonstrations of incremental growth along the way. Currently, he cannot endorse it because we do not have a plan or way to pay for it, so it would be a "hollow commitment." It will be very expensive. We have taken several steps that are required to sign the Commitment. There are seven options, and each institution must complete at least two. We formed the Sustainability Committee; we are completing annual carbon inventories (use an outside contractor – Sightlines); we participated in Recyclemania.
- Sightlines have submitted a proposal that would provide all the details needed to create a carbon neutral plan. Michael Paul has submitted a proposal to Chris Casey to approve the expenditure.
- A subcommittee would need to be established to create a carbon neutral plan proposal. Michael Paul, Bonnie Jacobs, and Al Armendiaz would automatically be on the committee, but additional members would be required. This would be a working committee that would need to meet at least once a month. Members would be provided education on the more technical aspects. The responsibilities of the committee would be to review the proposals provided by Sightlines for feasibility and complete cost/benefit analysis of the suggestions; Research other institutions and look at their plans.
- If interested, please email Michael Paul before October meeting. Need at least 2 – 3 additional members and variety is needed – don't want it to all be science and engineering based members.
- Tiana Lightfoot made a motion to approve establishment of committee; Bonnie Jacobs seconded it. Motion passed.

FYI – Michael Paul ordered pens made of recycled materials that will have the website address on them for passing out at events.

Subcommittee Reports

Purchasing:

- Report by Terry Conner.
- The Green Purchasing policy is in its final review. Terry Conner sent it out to the membership for review and comments. The deadline for submitting comments was August 31st. The subcommittee is planning a meeting to review the comments and finalize the policy for voting on by the full committee at the October meeting. Anyone who submitted comments will be invited to attend the subcommittee meeting.

Campus Education and Outreach:

- Report by Kim Cobb.
- The campus website is under construction. Please review and provide any comments or feedback. The website address is: www.smu.edu/sustainability. Check out one of the really cool features: the Environmental Footprint calculator. Added education related links across the top. The university is really making a commitment by having this website. Will be managed by Public Affairs, but the Committee will have a link that provides membership information and will also post minutes and agendas.
- A logo has been created. Example passed out and can also be seen on the website. We had banners made with it.
- National Campus Sustainability Day is October 21. We will be asking faculty, staff, and students to sign a green pledge. Our other big promotion is the Green Minute video contest. Students will submit entries by filming a

green tip in one minute or less. Have secured a gift card donation from Green Living for winner. Will start promoting on September 14 and will close on October 14. If you have any connections for donations for prizes, please let us know. Winning videos will be displayed on the website for viewing. We are also seeing if we can get the top 3 finishers on the Jumbotron at a home game. If you have other ideas for Campus Sustainability Day, we are looking for other collaborators and participants to make it big and fun.

- Tiana Light foot made a motion to approve the Green Minute Video Contest. Bonnie Jacobs seconded. Motion passed.

Recycling:

- Report by Eric English.
- The Committee was shown the common areas recycling bin that is being proposed to replace the cardboard containers around campus. Goal is to provide a consistent, attractive, and readily available container in common areas of all campus buildings. They are blue with a slim profile.
- The full Committee selected a flip lid style for the top of the container.
- Eric also showed the more expensive metal model that will be placed in areas that are considered high profile like the Blanton Building and the Collins Executive Center.
- Recommendation was made to change the proposed sign. Recommended working with the Education and Outreach Committee to create a “easy to understand” recycling instruction sign.
- Michael Paul made a motion to approve the proposed container. Cori Cusker seconded it. Motion passed.

Student Organization Updates:

Environmental Society: Night at the Club was successful. They had 120 students sign up with interest and 30 students at their first meeting. They are re-starting the Lights Out program idea, where they turn out lights in campus class rooms on Fridays at 6 pm. They are also working on old cell phone and battery recycling collection boxes for the residence halls and will be working with Cori Cusker and the E-Reps for distribution and pick up. They plan to sell the phones to raise money for campus environmental initiatives.

Tony Tomlinson: Has reached out to Panhellenic and IFC to work on creating better partnerships between the Committee and the Greek community. He also mentioned the Business Plan Competition that he is an officer for and asked about the possibility of collaboration opportunities. Michael Paul said he owed Tony a response to the email he had sent earlier.