

SMU Sustainability Committee Meeting

April 14, 2010

Approval of March minutes

- Motion: Kim Cobb; Second: Kevin Salfen
- Motion passed

Nominations Report - Michael Paul

- Executive Committee met; Have nominations for recommendation.
- Chair: Tiana Lightfoot;
- Chair-Elect: Pat Van Zandt;
- Voting will occur at the May meeting. Can send in an absentee vote if needed.
- Michael Vangeli will begin serving on the committee for 2010-11 instead of Michael Paul. Michael will still attend meetings and will still participate without being a member.

Membership Report – Michael Paul

- In the process of assessing attendance for the year and will be contacting anyone who has had more than two unexcused absences.

Purchasing

- No report

Campus Ed & Outreach Report - Cori Cusker

E-Rep Update

- The E-Rep program will be funded again for the 2010-11 year. There will be the addition of one more E-Rep to help reduce the number of communities they are responsible for and allow them to increase their presence and focus.
- Will begin recruiting for 4 of the 6 this semester. The advantage to hiring some of them now is that they can do more preparation prior to the start of school; have an increased presence from the beginning of the year; and help recruit other members.
- Want to leave at least two positions open for first year students.

AARO update

- Met with Ashley Stone in New Student Orientation and Student Success to discuss ways to weave conversations and messages about sustainability at SMU into the new student orientation process.
- After feedback from the general committee and the Executive Committee, Cori will follow up with Ashley and start putting some of this into motion with the assistance of the Campus Education and Outreach committee.

Some of the ideas being considered are:

- In Hughes Trigg, if there is a display case available, we will be given it to provide information about sustainable efforts at SMU and how to get involved.
- Ask HT staff if they or us can make special signs to place by recycling and trash bins to promote recycling and send the message that it is important on campus.
- Have some time with the AARO Leaders during their training (June 14 – 29) to talk about efforts and initiatives on campus so that they can share that information accurately and confidently with their students.
- Request that opening and closing speakers during the day mention it as a topic of importance on campus. Closing speaker can mention how to recycle unwanted materials (like nametags and books) before leaving for the day.
- Provide pens for all AARO families to be given when they check in and get their materials
- Start talking now (for next year) about providing all or most information materials distributed on flash drive

Discussion by the group:

- Flash drive – HT gives them out already; could develop more and partner
- Office Depot – now has Papermate pens made out of recyclable materials
- Like the pens but need larger font; different color ink for better readability

Recycling and Waste Management Report - Eric English

Food composter proposal

- Watched video demo.
- Recommending support because it would be great addition.
- Possible location – Lee Center Dock area. Would be able to access needed water. Would like to eventually like to bring all food service waste to this location.
- Composts in 24 hours to gray water. Water is odorless.
- How much does it cost?
 - Total costs – \$13,912;
 - Removal of two dumpsters would save \$20,989.
 - Would save \$6986 in annual costs
 - Gain a return after initial outlay for purchasing.
- Question: Does it continually run?
 - Only when it is use.
- Will use gray water to breakdown into compost.
- The rest will go to irrigation.
- Question: Does it lock?
 - No. Shouldn't be a risk. Too small for someone to get into.
- Could get some good organic nutrients out of it.
- Community garden could do a test area.
- UNT is using. Looked at theirs.
- Discussion about enzymes and make sure it is okay before we put it on ground.
- Motion to support purchase: Cori Cusker; Melissa Humanson: second
- Motion Passed.

Ambassador Name – voted on by committee

- Eco Ambassador – 5; Green Mustangs – 8; Green Ambassador – 2; Eco- Envoy – 1
- Run Off: 7- Eco AmbassadorA; Green Mustangs – 9
- The name of the members of the new program (discussed in previous minutes as Recycling Ambassadors) will be Green Mustangs

SMU Event Recycling Policy

- Campus use of grounds permit – how can we promote and encourage recycling at events through this form?
- Would like to make part of addendum to form. May want a commitment signature from organization. Idea of environmental deposit – but how would you monitor whether they recycled?
- Incentive would be good – encourage them to promote recycle events.
- Please take a look – went out with agenda. (Also including with these minutes)
- Give comments to Eric English.
- Will make changes and present at next meeting

1st Quarter update recycling statistics (attached to this email)

- 38% recycling across campus; 22% in RLSH;
- Paper towels in restrooms will now be recycled.
 - Switching liners to clear.
 - Need to contact Aramark.
 - Should increase recycling numbers.

- Education – signs should be added at trash bin to help eliminate contamination.

Recyclemania Report - Kevin Salfen

- Week 9 results; 114/346; 5/21 in Texas: Per Capita Classic; Target material 148/231; 6/14 Texas
- Final results this Friday
- Most successful event was hat pictures: good publicity
- March 17 Spring Cleaning – didn't seem to create large boost; comparing amount of recycling collected from one week to next
- Initial Recommendations: will make formal list, but here are some initial comments.
 - Start planning earlier
 - Have larger subcommittee; and include more staff on subcommittee
 - Do some research over summer about successful events at other schools.
 - How do you maintain interest over the course of the competition?
 - How do you create change in behavior instead of just awareness?
 - Two part events
 - Incentives – maybe that devalues it?
 - With new general education curriculum – perhaps service opportunities.
- Hope to have a wrap up article – highlights at end.

Barefoot Boulevard Report – Jessie Hart

- Have main sponsors
- Working on giveaways.
- Meeting today 6pm HT Portico E to finalize.
- Flyers should be going up.

Final note about upcoming May meeting:

- Will be voting for Chair and Chair Elect and new members
- There is not a good time, in general, with finals and students moving out.
- Can submit absentee votes.