



University Sustainability Committee

January 25, 2023

Members Present: Victor Cohen, Bill Guess, Todd Culp, Scott Crow, Carol Sawyer, Doug Marshall, David Turnipseed, Monica Davidson

Guest: Simone Holmes (Diversity& Community Engagement Chair)

Brett Heckman (SGA Senator)

Shenghua Wu of Ambassadors for Solid Waste Sustainability

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 2:03PM By Victor Cohen

Welcome Guest Simone, Brett, and Sheghua Wu

Old Business:

November Meeting's minutes were approved by the Committee.

Update on work groups/ Sub-Committees

Operations:

Todd: Updated Committee since meeting in July to November 79 bales of cardboard have been sent out and counting. Also informed the committee of cardboard measurements (1 Bail = 2 tons). Operations are still working on ways to collect plastic.

Bill: Has spoken with Scott at the Student Rec Center who is helping with recycling efforts and getting recyclables on trucks to send to the Hitt Rd. facility as well as Langan Park. Has taken about 4 to 5 bags average after part time workers have segregated items.

Todd: Stated they also have a part time worker that keeps up with the cardboard and separation of plastics.

Bill: Has spoken with Tammy Stokes about getting a local facility for plastics for the Coca-Cola Bottle back program since there are a lot of Clients and Corporate partners in the Mobile Region. Bill says she also gave him a flier to show how PET bottles are graded, how they need to be separated out, what contaminants are allowable and what are strictly prohibited. Looking into bailing plastics as well. Bill explained how bales of cardboards cost went from \$110.00 per bail to \$35.00 per bail and anything less than \$45.00 we do not make any money from it.

Working on getting new labels for collections and changing from Pepsi to Coca-Cola. Also needing help finding Big Rolling Recycle Bins.

Academic & Innovation: No new updates but has a new Faculty member in her department from Germany. Says Germany is really good with recycling and says she will pick their brain to come up with some ideas.

Bill: Informed Carol about Student Groups that really want to be involved such as Marine and Environmental Sciences.

Planning & Administration: Bill- Still working on getting reports updated. MCOB Representatives not present at the meeting but Bill has sent them measurement reports.

Victor: There are people all over campus that are doing things with sustainability but we need one place that is visible where everyone can tap into.

Green Jags: Bill says they have sent him some reports about their activity in the Student Garden. They have been to the Food Bank and put in an order for supplies for Spring. They have been reporting to Scott Crow directly. Scott says they have taken over the Student Garden and are only asking for pine straw. Scott has also proposed doing an area around the perimeter of the Student Garden once we get wildflower seeds in.

Bill: Stated **Biology student Association** has joined with **Green Jags**

New Business:

Introduction of Shenghua Wu Ambassadors for Solid Waste Sustainability

Shenghua: Ambassador Program researches how we can make best use of recyclables. It is an EPA Funded project good for one year. The Hub includes 4 faculty members with 4 modules. Explained how the Ambassador Program produces and provides training for college students on sustainability. They will have a 2-day camp with about 20 High Schools students, allowing them to visit USA's campus for hands-on experiences with sustainability. Hopefully the program can get more funding to continue after 1 year. **Shenghua** has put out fliers around campus to recruit Ambassadors. He also stated the Society for Sustainable Energy had a meeting as well in hopes to help with recruiting.

Victor: Brought attention to the different sustainability web pages that multiple groups have.

David Turnipseed and **Victor** suggest we come up with a way to link all the different web pages together on the main Sustainability webpage. Bill states we come up with a way to know which different groups are out there. Possibly getting with the Digest to say if you are doing anything in the sustainability realm send your contact and a link and we'll get it uploaded to our webpage.

Dr. Sawyer: Asked what do students search for when they want to know about sustainability? Are they searching for simple recycling? Do they even search at all?

Bill: Spoke about possibly having a meeting with the Deans Council so they discuss ideas with the Chairs.

Victor: Suggested being collective with information to at least highlight all the efforts that go on around campus. He proposed the question: is this worthy of the University front page website?

Bill: Says speaking with Jim in Marketing to get legs on links for sustainability information.

Doug Marshall: Stated we can possibly survey different student organizations

Dr. Sawyer and **Shenghua**: Both stated different Universities take a very small portion of student fees and use them to fund sustainability projects. **Brett** agrees a portion of student fees may create more student presence on USA Campus.

Dr. Sawyer: Wants to look into soliciting proposals to Faculty on creating Environmental Scholarships as an incentive for students as well.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:51 PM

Dates for next Meeting in February TBA.