

University Sustainability Committee

March 21, 2019

Members Present: Dr. James Bridgeforth, Victor Cohen, Bailey Hoffman (Student Sustainability) Cecelia Martin, Diana Nichols

Members Absent: Dr. Glen Borchert, Dr. John Cleary, Todd Culp, William Guess, Dr. Krista Harrell, Dr. Doug Marshall, Mary Beth Massey, Brad Sanders, Dr. Stephanie Smallegan, SGA Representative

Guest: Mark Berte

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M. by Dr. James Bridgeforth

Old Business:

1. The minutes for the February 21, 2019 meeting were approved.
2. Sub-committee Chair Reports & Updates
 - a. Cecelia Martin: STARS Taskforce – Cecelia reported that she has started collecting the information that is needed for the STARS Taskforce. Cecelia has also invited everyone on the committee to the Google Drive documents so that the committee is able to track the progress and assist in determining what information is needed. The next meeting for this subcommittee will be the 1st week of April.
 - b. Victor Cohen: Campus Engagement – Victor Cohen reported that William Guess is working with Neo Waste and to coordinate a meeting with Bess Rich (city of Mobile representative). Victor reported that approval has been given for a greenhouse for the community garden. This subcommittee is discussing developing a series of speakers (2 speakers per semester) to come to the campus and discuss Sustainability.
 - c. Diana Nichols: Marketing & Communication – Diana reported that the Sustainability website is current with the minutes and committee members (including pictures). This committee is working towards getting light pole banners to be placed throughout campus. The goal is to have this completed by March or April 2020. Social Media is ongoing for this committee.
 - d. Todd Culp: Operations: Deferred until April 2019 meeting.

New Business

1. Welcome Mark and the ACF Team – Mark Berte from the Alabama Coastal Foundation (ACF) presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining the mission statement, educational programs and volunteer opportunities. The foundation has partnered with the University to offer student internships and to promote community engagement. Mark described different ways the Foundation works

with the community to improve our coasts. Mark described several educational programs; Drone Workshop, Coastal Alabama Service Learning and Wetlands Compliance Workshops. He also discussed several participation opportunity programs, such as the Alabama Coastal Cleanup and the Osprey Platforms. Mark referenced the Foundation's website where more information and opportunities are available.

2. Chandra Wright and campus programs: Dr. Bridgeforth suggested to invite Chandra Wright to speak at a lunch and learn event and ask the committee to consider having this event open to the campus instead of just having her speak at a committee meeting.
3. BOA Rides, etc. Bridgeforth reported that a few bike share programs have expressed interest in coming to the University. However, at this time, Dr. Bridgeforth's official opinion is that the University will not coordinate with any bike share program until Spring 2020.
4. Coke Sustainability, funding and biodegradable straw pilot: Dr. Bridgeforth reported that Coke is offering several funding opportunities. He also announced the pilot program to begin removing plastic straws from campus and to begin using either reusable straws or biodegradable straws.
5. Update on Earth Day Activity Bailey Hoffman, Student Sustainability, announced that that Committee will be hosting a Movie Night for Earth Day. It will be held on April 2, 2019 from 5:30-7:00 pm in the Humanities Bldg. room 160. The movies that will be shown are 'Underwater Forest', and parts from the movie 'Decoding the Weather Machine'. These movies can be found on the PBS website. There will also be a speaker discussing topics from the movie 'Underwater Forest'.
6. Committee Organizational Chart Dr. Bridgeforth provided a copy of the Sustainability Committee to everyone detailing the chairs and members for each of the subcommittees.
7. Open Floor & Other Discussion Items Diana Nichols announced that Coke was having a launch party on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 to give out free samples at the Student Center.
Mark Berte announced the Crepe Myrtle Trail Bike Ride that will be held on April 10, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.



Dr. James Bridgeforth, Director, University Housing