University Sustainability Committee

November 9, 2022

Members Present: Victor Cohen, Dr. Krista Harrell, Bill Guess, Todd Culp, Scott Clausen, Diana Nichols

Guest: C.C. Annulis, Jana Stupavsky (MCOB)

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 2:30PM By Victor Cohen

Welcome MCOB Guests C.C. Annulis and Jana Stupavsky to the meeting.

C.C. (**Student**) says COB is working to start Sustainability efforts to become Greener with 2 professors on board.

Java (MCOB Professor) is looking to help with those efforts to work with the Sustainability Committee and COB to get more information to students.

Todd Culp: Brought up options for the COB to educate students on recycling.

Farewell to Dr. Krista Harrell: THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOU DID FOR THE UNIVERSITY & SERVING AS CO-CHAIR TO THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Old Business:

July Meeting's minutes were approved by Committee.

Update on work groups:

Operations: Cardboard is doing well. Bill's team has taken plastics and cans to Hitt Road location and to City Parks. Says City Parks recycle everything without needing prior separation.

Bill/ Todd: Says they need volunteers to drive truck to the recycle facilities.

Bill: Stated 18 bails of cardboard generated funds that can go towards Sustainability Expenses. Bill also says he is sending a formal request to Coke for a local bottle collection facility to help with efforts for the bottle back program so the University could start taking bottles there to be recycled.

Krista: Suggest getting with Coke to potentially making signage/ education to show how to sort recyclables to put around campus.

Diana Marketing/ Communications & Engagement: Update on Video Boards; There is a holdup on funding for Equipment. Diana says Dr. Kent has given department Funds for licensing on standardize messaging systems for centralized monitors and Software.

There is one update on Sustainability webpage that shows student gardening activities.

Bill suggested reminding various groups to update webpage when they have activities.

Planning & Administration: Bill says he is still working on self-assessment organization that's dedicated to Sustainability and Higher Education.

Krista: Explained the components of data collection through sub-committees to outline credits with whether or not we meet threshold. This helps to prioritize and plan.

Jana: Asked how does the Committee measure progress and suggested communicating tangible results/data to build dashboards. Suggested not focusing on signage but more so on how we reduce consumption. COB will piggyback off the Sustainability Committee in getting that information out to students and help produce contact for Sustainability web page.

Krista spoke about **STARS** which is a structure on how each subcommittee reports different forms of data. It just needs to be updated to make movement. Krista is also interested on different ways to focus on investing in sustainability curriculum.

Bill says bottle refill stations around campus has been a great investment. Refill Stations reduced water bottle consumption in great numbers in the past year. There has also been energy reduction by converting all street lights to LED lights on campus.

Green Jags: Involved with managing the Campus Garden, campus clean ups and storm water management. The student groups organize them very well by tracking waste as well as tracking how many participants they have.

Osprey Initiative Group: Bill says group may have lost interest after we explained that the University primarily recycles our plastics here first. Osprey Group possibly looking at University as a funding opportunity. We may be interested at a later date but not at this moment.

New Business:

C.C.: Says COB Students have shown interest and wants to create a marketing database to share information on their Social Media.

Jana will work with Bill Guess to gather data reports. Jana states they have gone out and conducted surveys on sustainability and courses. Wants to bring awareness to what Sustainability Committee is doing as well as its operational procedures.

Bill also suggested an Amnesty Day for recycling household chemicals. He also wants to build a campaign to recruit a Sustainability Deputy.

Scott Clausen: Announced USA has a partnership site for experiments called GULF SCHOLARS and is looking for 40 undergrad students for course components field work/projects around the Gulf Coast and Gulf of Mexico as well as offering them mentorships. Steven Scyphers in Marine Sciences is the Point person for Gulf Scholars.

Dates for next Meeting in January TBA. Meeting was adjourned at 3:14 PM