

## Sustainability Committee Meeting Minute for August 29, 2023

**Members present:** Christina Wassenaar, Cori Scherbring, Evan Wilkes, Scott Crow, Dr. Steven Scyphers, Todd Culp, Joel Billingsley, Dr. Carol Sawyer, Dr. Shenghua Wu, Bridgette Soderlind, Amaya Douglas, Bill Guess, Dr. Eun Min Hwang, Diana Nichols

**Guests:** Sarah Limer and Savannah Wallace

2:04 PM

### **Welcome to the first Sustainability Committee Meeting of 2023-2024**

**Victor:** Goes over the Sustainability Committee Mission Statement and thanks all old and new members of the committee.

Minutes from June 20, 2023 meeting were approved at 2:06 PM

### ***Work Group Reports***

#### **Marketing & Communications**

**Diana:** Currently working on consolidating Sustainability website. She landed on needing to know who and what to consolidate for the website. There is some post on the University social media pages for Move-In day cardboard recycling.

**Bridgette:** Asked about doing an annual report on the website? She also suggested SGA information could be added.

**Amaya SGA:** Mentioned Campus Safety & Improvements can update **Diana** on what their group is doing.

**Victor:** Wanted to know if there was a possibility of placing a Sustainability Tab on the University's Homepage where it can give a Sustainability web page overview.

**Dr. Scyphers:** Suggested adding the Gulf Scholars to the Home Page Banner and add an introduction of the members of the Gulf Scholars as well.

#### **Operations**

**Todd:** Thanks **Scott Crow** and Grounds Crew for all their help on move-in day. He also mentioned the mountains of cardboard that was collected.

**Bill:** Stated a lot of parents were helping during move-in day as well.

**Bill/ Todd:** Stated they are still in the process of bailing cardboard so no updates just yet on the amount/total.

### **Academic**

**Dr. Sawyer:** Didn't have any updates for work group, but suggested the addition of a Co-Chair for Academic work group to help identify programs going on with sustainability and getting that information out to students.

**Victor:** Stated that we do not need an approval from Provost to add said Co-Chair within the work groups so it would be no problem for the addition.

### **Planning**

**Bill:** Is looking to add Earth Day ideas to the web page. He also suggested the President's Office and SGA may want to add Earth Day April 2024 to the web page as well.

### ***No Updates for the Biology Student Association***

**Amaya** stated that they are hoping to do a Campus wide clean up soon.

**Victor** advised the day after home football games are a good target date for Campus Cleanups.

**Bill** suggested posting flyers for volunteers to help **Aaron (Student Garden Organizer)** with first game clean up.

**Diana** stated that the committee forward all useful sustainability info to her so she can place it on the Sustainability Web Page.

**Bill** Introduced **Christina Wassenaar/** VP Of the Faculty Senate.

**Christina** States that there are no current activities. Says the Faculty Senate has completed a survey and will present results at the Senate Plenary meetings the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of September. One of them being ECO Development and how it relates to the world and not just recycling.

**Christina** also mentioned this Faculty Senate can lead the charge for Curriculum for Sustainability.

### ***General Updates***

**Dr. Scyphers** Announced on September 15 school is introducing a Minor in Sustainability. Wants to look into marketing for Sustainability classes. Gulf Scholars has funds for curriculum and encourages participation in sustainability modules. He also mentioned at the end of the semester new scholars will

be selected. **Dr. Scyphers** stated that he would like to be paired with **Dr. Sawyer** and the Academic Sub Committee.

**Dr. Wu** says The Society for Sustainable Engineering is hosting events with guest speakers monthly. He also mentioned 3 student projects that the Sustainable Engineering group worked on such as Micro Plastics and its prevalence in fish, Glass recycling by turning it into artificial sand as well as some projects in Biomedical, Journalism Arts & Humanities fields.

### **New Business**

**Victor:** Proposed an Election of Co-Chairs for Committee

**Bill** suggested electing a member from Faculty and/or students so we can gain perspective from all areas on campus.

**Dr. Steven Scyphers** and **Amaya Douglas** are nominated/ voted in as new Co-Chair and Student Co-Chair of the Sustainability Committee.

### ***Where do we go from here?***

**Victor/Bill** suggested gathering information relate to sustainability that we can get and start feeding information to Diana to be marketed. Also suggested we invite Student Organizations and Faculty Senate to Committee meetings as well.

**Meeting Adjourned at 3:03 PM**