

Environmental Stewardship Council
Meeting Notes
March 13, 2013

In attendance were: Maura Tyrrell (chair), Melissa Amaral, Lauren Amundson, Paige Begley, Craig Binney, Bruce Boyer, Kim Cordeiro, Jessa Gagne, Martha Leombruno, Bob MacEachern, Bridget Meigs, Susan Mooney, Breanne Penkala, Paul Ricci, Cheryl Schnitzer, Kelly Treseler and Greg Wolfe.

The meeting started at 11:08 a.m. in the Martin Boardroom.

1. Craig Binney took a moment to thank Kim Cordeiro for her service to the Committee for creating agendas and taking minutes of previous meetings. Craig also introduced Martha Leombruno, Kim's replacement in the Operations office.
2. Meeting minutes for November 11th and February 4th were approved.
3. Jessa Gagne updated the following:

There were a number of Green Fund applications received, encouraging news reflecting students becoming more increasingly involved in sustainability and energy initiatives. Applications ranged from Pilgrim Heights Eco-Bingo, Say No to Disposable to-go, and Increasing Plant Yields through Aquaponics to name a few. Applications were all approved. There are still funds remaining for this fiscal year.

Once the energy modeling of Roche, Martin and Cushing-Martin are completed the information compiled will be incorporated into energy efficiency projects.

The initial electrical usage from the newly installed electric sub-meters was distributed. The 10 meters captured over 40% of the consumption on our primary meter. This is the first time this information has been gathered and the result proved interesting. As expected, the Shields Science Center yielded the high usage, as that building operates 24 hours per day. The highest usage was at Roche Dining Commons given the use of electric heat and kitchen equipment. Martin Institute seemed surprisingly high to committee members, but it was noted that the building only has electric heat. Jessa mentioned she can provide more data to anyone who is interested.

4. GreenerU

Craig reported on the recent meeting with GreenerU. Their mission is to help colleges and universities implement smart, comprehensive programs that meet higher-ed's unique and evolving needs for energy efficiency, sustainability, climate and facilities solutions. GreenerU has a 12 hour eco-rep course that is offered to students. However due to the high cost of the program and lack of funding at this time it's unrealistic any Stonehill students will be participating soon. The students attending the meeting agreed they would find the program interesting, however also agreed should the program be offered to students, there should be an application process. By doing so, students selected would be individuals who could benefit the College during their time at the College -- someone who would engage in the efforts of sustainability at the College. It was also mentioned that as employees are outreaching to student groups they communicate with not only the President and the Vice President of those groups but also to the student members, who in fact may have more time to engage than those in leadership roles.

5. SGA Sustainability Funds

Kelly mentioned there are SGA funds available to be used. However, the group would need to re-assemble to vote on how the funds are used moving forward. Students had voted in the past to determine how the funds would be dispersed. The fund has been used in the past for To-go containers. Bruce Boyer will be scheduling a meeting with Jim Hermelbracht to discuss a list of requests that have come from the students, which includes water bottle fill stations and occupancy sensors among other things.

6. St. Francis Pledge

Maura mentioned the pledge was a success. She is hopeful to add the pledge to the College's mission and that it be forwarded to the Trustees.

7. Sub-Committee Reports

Update on the Green initiative fund was given by Jessa Gagne. After all the current 2013 proposals are funded (not included bike racks) the balance remaining will be approximately \$4,000 and the remaining funds may be used to purchase green kits for incoming freshmen this fall. Greg Wolfe is confident that many university vendors will be providing donated items towards the green kits. As a result the entire balance remaining in the fund may not need to be utilized.

The meatless Monday initiative seems to be doing well. A-frame stations are posted encouraging students to refrain from meat consumption on Mondays. Also, literature is available from the Health and Wellness Committee. A suggestion was made that perhaps Sedexho could provide a matrix of how much meat use had decreased on Monday's since this initiative began? Lauren Amundson, a student, suggested to create more awareness by possibly hosting a raffle each Monday for students who opt into meatless Monday. They would be given a ticket to be dropped in a box for a weekly prize.

Student printing was discussed by Greg Wolfe. The majority of their printing takes place in the Library and College Center. The idea seems to be agreed upon that student printing should be measured, perhaps with a tracking device. Black and white copying is down and color copying is up, not surprisingly. Education and awareness need to be communicated to the students to assist in reducing our printed volume. Also encouraging, a lot of in-house printing is now being done, instead of outsourcing as done in the past.

8. Green Tips

Lisa Richards and Cheryl Schnitzer would be sending out the green tips for the month of March. They will be promoting Recyclemania which is currently in Week 5 of 8. Bob MacEachern provided statistics noting the week of spring break recycling was down to 16% however, the week the students return yields higher volumes and we are expecting to be at 60% this week. An average week is typically at 21%. Paul Ricci was surprised at the other schools participating in Recyclemania and how well we were keeping up with other colleges and universities such as Harvard, Princeton and WPI to name a few. It was noted that community colleges seem to have better recycling rates. It would be interesting to see a breakdown by resident schools and non-resident schools.

9. Other business

Brianne McKayla attended the meeting and spoke of her attendance at the Real Food Challenge at Johns Hopkins University. She passed around a thank you card being sent to thank the Committee for providing the funding for this event. She hopes to use what she learned from this event to begin a campaign at Stonehill. A number of students who participated in this group will be hosting their first Real Food event on campus in April. The plans are being finalized soon and an announcement will be made campus wide. Real Food will be appearing at the Sustainability Fair and at the Jamnesty event this year.

It was also announced there will be two Sustainability Fairs, one that was held in the fall and another in the spring. When the Fair was moved to the fall, students loved it, however also loved the Spring Fair! Hence, the need for two. SEA will be sponsoring both fairs and they are still in the planning phases for the spring fair. It was noted there will be a band and giveaways at each fair.

10. Future Agenda Items

Spring Sustainability Fair
Real Food Events – Brianne McKayla

The next meeting is April 18th at 12:30pm

The meeting concluded at 12:00 p.m.