

**Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting**

Thursday, December 5, 2013

3:30 p.m.

Alumni Hall Board Room

**MINUTES**

Attendees: Craig Binney, Kaylie Bissonnette '14, Bruce Boyer, Rachael Boyle '15, Deb Carpenter, Nicole Casper, Kim Cordeiro, Jessa Gagne, Jennifer Heine, Shayla Jordan, Jonathan Lai '14, Bob MacEachern, Dan McDowell, Tom McGrath, David Miller, Sue Mooney, Paul Ricci, Cheryl Schnitzer, Colin Shepherd '14, Maura Tyrrell, and Greg Wolfe

The meeting started at 3:30 p.m. in the Alumni Hall Board Room and was chaired by Prof. Susan Mooney.

1. Meeting minutes for November 7th were approved.
2. Three students from the Environmental Ethics class requested the Committee's consideration of promoting that the College sign the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment. They explained how it is different from the St. Francis Pledge in that it is measurable with a step-by-step action plan versus a concept, to reach the ultimate goal of climate neutrality. The presentation included a listing of several local universities who have made this commitment.

Several Committee members stated that while the goal of the Commitment is certainly commendable and their enthusiasm is terrific, it's somewhat unrealistic for Stonehill at this time. Several universities that have signed the Commitment have since discontinued, finding it not practicable for their situation.

A draft copy of Stonehill's long-range Sustainability Plan indicating the many notable campus-wide goals will be sent to these students. Additionally, we expect to begin the extensive STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™) process in the future, in order to measure and continuously improve our sustainability practices and performance. It was suggested that the STARS project could be aided by a student involved in either a senior project or an internship.

3. Sue discussed the many ambitious Ethics Courses' campus sustainability projects involving recycling, low-maintenance landscaping, an herb spiral, energy reduction contests, educational laundry posters, bike share, zip car, etc. These initiatives are all very encouraging.
4. IT Print Monitoring – The software has not been purchased yet but is expected to be in place and tested during the spring semester. It will initially be installed, with print release stations, in Stanger Hall and MacPhaidin Library. Once these new initiatives are operational, an announcement will be

made to students, and training will be provided, potentially by other students. A pop-up box will instruct users when they send a file to the printer/release station.

5. *Stop the Drop* – Holy Cross Center won the contest by having their water usage drop the most. Their prize has not been chosen yet.

Water usage will continue to be monitored quarterly and will be compared to the prior years.

Jessa suggested a student-run, eco-Olympiad with a point system lasting all semester. Sue will speak with her students to hopefully pull together this type of a program.

6. Jessa informed the Committee that the Shields Science Center's hoods will be off from December 20-24. Also, the College Center, Stanger Hall and Duffy will have their electricity off for one hour on December 26 while new electric sub-meters are installed.

On another note, Jessa explained that Martin Institute is heated with electric baseboard heaters which are controlled on the units themselves and not by the thermostats on the walls. She will notify Peter of this as there seems to be some confusion throughout the building.

7. Other Business-

The Sally Blair Ames Expansion kick-off meeting was held on 12/4. A group of interested students will be meeting with the architectural and construction management firms to discuss their vision on solar energy, gray water usage, etc.

Zipcar has delivered two new cars to campus – “Wingnut” and “Shawmutt”. Danielle Witter will potentially become the campus Zipcar ambassador. We currently have 143 members on campus. There were 50 reservations made in September, 60 in October and 70 in November. Utilization rate is up 20%.

The Bike Share program is on hold as there is some uncertainty about where the bikes will be obtained from.

8. Upcoming Events –

There will be a Green Groups event on 12/10 at 5:00 in Martin Institute 105 in order to share and discuss their accomplishments.

Senior Capstone projects will be presented on 12/11 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in MI 105.

Bob mentioned that Recyclemania will be held February through early April. He will be looking for students to help advertise the program. Last year's program had recycling at 22% of all trash, which was up 4% from the prior year.

9. Future Agenda Items –

 Upcoming Events

The meeting concluded at 4:25 p.m.

Next Meeting: Once faculty class & research schedules are available, the spring semester meetings will be scheduled – preferably for later in the month.