



Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting

Thursday, February 27, 2014

3:30 p.m.

Merkert-Tracy 250/251

MINUTES

Attendees: Craig Binney, Kaylie Bissonnette '14, Deb Carpenter, Nicole Casper, Kim Cordeiro, Jessa Gagne, Jennifer Heine, Devin Ingersoll '14, Shayla Jordan, Bob MacEachern, Dan McDowell, Tom McGrath, David Miller, Sue Mooney, Paul Ricci, Cheryl Schnitzer, Maura Tyrrell, Greg Wolfe

The meeting began at 3:30 p.m. and was chaired by Prof. Susan Mooney.

1. Meeting minutes for January 23rd were approved.
2. Green To-Go Containers – Use of the disposable containers during the fall semester was down 17% vs. last year, from 70,000 to 58,000, and is down even further this semester.

The green reusable container supply is quite low. The idea to bring one back and take another is on an honor system. Due to staffing changes, this area cannot be overseen.

These green containers appear throughout the residence halls. During spring break, Bob MacEachern will request that custodians collect and return any that they find. Also, the Residence Life staff and Food Truth members will do the same.

The low supply may force students to return them to the dining commons. The use of the green reusable to-go containers is strongly encouraged.

3. Real Food Campus Commitment - Devin updated the group that the Commitment has been presented to Fr. Denning for consideration. The Food Truth group is anxious to become the 20th college in the country to make this Commitment. If approved, a full-time person would be needed for the work involved as it requires hundreds of hours per semester. This position could be filled with a student internship, a senior capstone course, or a directed study position. Food Truth will “recruit” for this position(s).

Dave explained that if approved, the Real Food Campus Commitment would have a significant impact on meal plan prices, although it's hard to predict how much of an increase it would be at this time.

4. Next Step Living: Home Energy Audits – Sue is interested in having home energy audits made available to Stonehill employees. Shayla will check if there is room for them at the Wellness Fair in April or possibly schedule this group for the May Employee Luncheon, to allow Next Step Living reps to provide information to employees.

5. Print Release Stations – Tom McGrath updated the group on the new print release stations in Stanger Hall and MacPháidín Library. Paper usage in the MacPháidín Library has been cut in half and the printing area is much cleaner. Students mentioned that there are no longer piles of papers to go through to find their own printout. A second release station was added due to lines that formed at the original release station.

In Stanger, there are often long lines to get to the release station. Many students are bypassing it and printing to another, smaller printer in the area. The release station area is not staffed and can get very hectic during the 15 minutes between classes. Students will need to print at less busy times.

The College is considering setting a student printing limit (per semester) for next year's class, which will be a generous amount. Usage is being monitored this semester to help determine that limit. The few students that go over their limit will be billed through Student Financial Services.

As an additional conservation measure, Greg suggested that faculty be encouraged to have their students turn in their papers electronically.

6. Juniperks – The Marketing Department has approved Juniperks' free service agreement, and it is now up to the General Counsel's office for approval. Word is beginning to spread on campus. If approved, Juniperks will help with a launch party, including some great prize giveaways.
7. Long Range Sustainability Plan – Jessa distributed via email the Long-range Sustainability Plan, broken down by goals and also by action items required to meet each goal, listed by year to be completed. She will be setting up an online survey enabling everyone to make comments based on their own areas of expertise and interest. Based on the survey results, groups will be formed to tackle the Sustainability Plan goals.
8. Other Business

A discussion was held surrounding the lack of LEED certified projects on campus and the pros and cons of the LEED designation.

The Green Execs have a meeting scheduled to discuss Earth Day (April 22), and the weeklong celebration including Jamnesty, "Grab the Green", star-gazing and nature walks. Greg has a case of cups available for giveaways during that week.

The film ***Growing Cities*** will be shown on March 25 at 7:00 p.m. in Martin 105. This is an inspiring and educational documentary about urban agriculture in America and has won awards at several 2013 and 2014 Film Festivals.

Craig announced that the solar panels installed on the roof of Pole Building II and Pole Building III are now operational and generate 56,000 kWh/yr and 88,000 kWh/yr respectively. This is about 1% of Stonehill's annual electrical usage and \$5,100 in annual savings. All felt this was exciting news and should be highlighted in the Monday Morning Update or Alumni Magazine.

The meeting concluded at 4:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 27th at 3:30 in Merkert-Tracy 250/251