



### Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 30, 2018

8:30 a.m.

Irish Studies Library

### MINUTES

Attendees: Craig Binney, Bruce Boyer, Kristi Burkholder, Deb Carpenter, Erica Cordatos '19, Diane DeFrias, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Jessa Gagne, Gwyneth Gould '22, Victoria Hassan '20, Bob MacEachern, Paul Ricci, Natalie Schafer '21, Cheryl Schnitzer, Greg Wolfe

Excused: Jenna Berkowitz '19, Nicole Casper, Kim Cordeiro, Elizabeth Cronin '20, Doreen DelMonaco, Kathy Falcone, Patrick Keaney, Chanel Mazzone, Bridget Meigs, Alecsandra Steele '19

The meeting commenced at 8:30 a.m. and was chaired by Prof. Cheryl Schnitzer. Introductions were made as there were several new attendees.

1. Minutes for the September 25 meeting were approved.
2. Ecumenical Environmental Prayer – This agenda item was tabled until the next meeting when someone from Campus Ministry is in attendance.
3. ESC By-Laws Review – Craig reviewed the current membership guidelines, which state the following:

Division	Number of Voting Members	2018-2019 Members appointed by Division Heads
Academic Affairs	3 faculty (includes chairperson) + 1 staff	Kristi Burkholder, Bridget Meigs, Cheryl Schnitzer (chair), Nicole Casper
Advancement	1	Chanel Mazzone
*Enrollment & Marketing	1	Doreen DelMonaco
Executive	1	Kathy Falcone
Finance	2 (Facilities & Purchasing)	Bruce Boyer, Greg Wolfe
Mission	1	Kim Cordeiro
Student Affairs	2 (Residence Life & other)	Patrick Keaney, open
Students	3 (includes President of SEA or his/her representative)	We have several student members. It is undetermined who are voting vs. non-voting members.

\*Enrollment & Marketing is now split among divisions: Student Financial Assistance falls under the Finance division; Marketing falls under the President.

It was suggested that there be representatives from Marketing, Athletics and IT.

Craig would like to eliminate the two-year term bylaw since members are appointed, and most want to remain on the Council.

Craig suggested a side meeting be held to discuss proposed changes to the bylaws. Craig, Cheryl and Deb agreed to meet, and the Council will vote on the changes at a future meeting.

4. SEA Report – Victoria reported on recent sustainability events. On October 13, a Sustainability Fair was held indoors at the Commons due to rain. Activities included a game that spreads awareness on recyclables and sustainability, *real food* granola provided by Food Truth, tie dying with re-used t-shirts, and a carbon footprint calculator, provided by SEA, to determine the impacts of your daily life. There probably would have been a better turnout if the fair were held earlier in the year and outside on the quad. Possibly future fairs could be held to coincide with Admission events. Overall, the fair was well done and made a difference!
5. Green 2Go Update – The pilot program currently underway in Boland Hall is proceeding very well. This drop off container and take a clip honor system averages 15 per day, and an additional container bin may be needed. Facilities arranges for the used containers to be returned to the Commons. Bob mentioned that if this were done at all res. halls, it would be a full time job. It was suggested that RA's handle the clip/container distribution. They would need a stash of clips to keep on hand and check the bins twice per day. It would be great if they could leave the containers on the dock for pickup each day. Gwyneth and Natalie will discuss at their upcoming RHA meeting.

Unfortunately, at the Commons, some students are taking multiple clips upon returning their container. The program is definitely not breaking even. However, Kathleen has noticed many more green containers are being used; it seems to be becoming automatic for many students, which is great!

Cheryl mentioned the signs posted that remind students to return their containers. These were purchased through the Green Fund. They will be put in key locations with high traffic. Greg suggested that RA's post the signs in residence halls.

It was suggested that a note go out to students reminding them to return their containers prior to Thanksgiving break.

Greg provided data on single-use container purchases this year vs. last year:

As of 9/29/17 56,143

As of 9/29/18 12,778

6. Au Bon Pain Refrigerator Truck – The café space was designed for an estimated \$8-10,000 in sales per week; however, their sales are currently \$25,000 per week. The refrigerator truck behind the Library is providing them with the much-needed extra refrigeration. The refrigeration is on a thermostat so is not running continuously. However, a solution is being worked on and the truck will be gone by the end of the semester. Kathleen mentioned that food production such as salads and yogurts would shift to the Commons. We are investigating where additional refrigeration units could be installed.
7. Excess Food to Shelters – Cheryl asked about the possibility of donating excess food from events. Kathleen explained that if food is left out where it could be touched, such as a buffet, shelters will not accept the food due to cross contamination concerns. Likewise, people who attend an event are not allowed to take excess food home with them. There are many laws supporting this public health issue.

Greg pointed out that our food waste is relatively low due to Sodexo using the Lean Path system and producing accurate amounts of food to be served. Additionally, their menu planning includes re-using food from one meal in other menu offerings such as soups and salad.

8. Reusable or compostable plates and silverware – Cheryl would like to see the College cut back on its use of plastic-ware at events. The Waste Reduction Committee could work on adding an industrial compostable waste stream process on campus, but that is not currently on the College’s project list. This could be a huge financial undertaking for the College. There was discussion of a more sustainable catering system. Kathleen pointed out that there is always a choice to use china plates instead of paper at campus functions, but this incurs additional labor costs for the event.

Cheryl feels we should keep trying to find better options for wares, such as compostable spoons and forks. However, without a better recycling and/or composting process, these would just go to landfills. She questioned that the College may have a moral obligation to try and that it is disappointing that finances are the reason for not doing so.

9. Other Business –

Greg would like to see a different department report on sustainability efforts at each meeting on a rotating basis. No decision was made to implement regular reporting like this.

10. Upcoming Events –

Reminder: The Catholic Climate Covenant’s webinar entitled “The Root Causes of Climate Change: Understanding Extractive Industries and their Impacts” is scheduled for today at 3:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.