



Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 16, 2019

8:30 a.m.

Irish Studies Library

MINUTES

Attendees: Kristi Burkholder, Deb Carpenter, Kathleen Fitzgerald (Sodexo), Dalton Griggs '21, Devin Kindred, Bob MacEachern, Chanel Mazzone, Bridget Meigs, Paul Ricci, Cheryl Schnitzer (Chair), Greg Wolfe

The meeting commenced at 8:30 a.m. and was chaired by Cheryl Schnitzer.

1. The meeting began with introductions.
2. The focus of this meeting is to discuss ESC members' work to include sustainability goals in the Five-Year Strategic Plan. Bridget, Kristi, Greg, Celia and Dalton met with several of the primary Planning Committee members. It became apparent that it isn't feasible to incorporate sustainability into all eight focus areas of the Plan at this time. We don't want this to feel rushed or random – it should be organic.

The **Diversity & Inclusion** area, headed by Connie Cabello, has a very focused plan, and adding a sustainability segment would detract from that focus at this time. Going forward, there will be many opportunities to partner with Connie's team.

Sustainability ties in well with the **Impact of Generation Z** area, led by Joe Dacey. Joe is happy to be a sustainability champion for the ESC. Bridget will draft a sustainability initiative section to be included in their next draft.

The **Mission / Holy Cross Identity** area, led by Fr. Tony Szakaly, is a natural fit for sustainability, e.g., Pope Francis's encyclical on ecology, *Laudato Si'* and the Catholic Climate Covenant. Fr. Tony and Heather Heerman are open to establishing a fund similar to the Georgetown University 2019 *Laudato Si'* Fund to support projects and programs led by faculty, students and/or staff to strengthen our responses to global and local sustainability challenges. Chanel will get further details on setting up this fund within the Development office.

The **Academic Program Delivery** area, headed by Deb Salvucci, has three major initiatives: online delivery of course content; dual enrollment programs; and certification programs. Bridget asked that Deb's group include sustainability in their online courses section, pointing out that providing online courses also offers an opportunity for the College to work towards its goal of decreasing our carbon footprint and moving our campus in a more sustainable direction.

The **Organization Effectiveness** area, led by Lily Krentzman, includes several initiatives that link to sustainability such as a plan to allow for remote work and also flexible work schedules, which would allow for reduced commute time. They are also reducing paper usage with new online processes. Bridget is continuing this conversation with Lily.

Craig was unable to attend this meeting, but has shared the following:

The **Campus Master Plan** area focuses on: (a) what space will be needed for whatever new academic and athletic programs we ultimately decide to pursue, (b) what infrastructure will be needed if we decide to grow enrollment, (c) selected projects of interest (hotel, ice rink and

making the Chapel of Mary more prominent) and (d) improving sustainability and accessibility efforts.

The group was unable to meet with Kevin Piskadlo, who is leading the **Athletic Programs** area of the Plan or Peter Ubertaccio, heading up the **New Academic Programs** area.

Having these conversations with Planning Committee members is an excellent way to get our message out. Also, Fr. Tony, Heather, Craig and Marilena can be strong voices for our cause. Bridget will follow up with the Planning Committee members and share their Strategic Plan drafts once available.

3. Other Business -

- It was discussed that long term, it would be ideal to have a person whose sole role is to promote sustainability on campus.
- Greg would like to see every department have its own sustainability plan.
- Kristi wants the ESC to develop our own five-year plan. The ESC also needs more visibility for initiatives including a newsletter and a website. Chanel suggested we use social media to get sustainability-related ideas and information out to students.
- Greg mentioned that the supply of green containers is nearly depleted. There needs to be a big final push to get students to return their containers before Easter break. Dalton mentioned that many students see returning them as a hassle. Paul has found them all over campus, even in the pond. Students want return bins at all res. halls. Should there be a raffle or other incentive for returning them? Bob agreed to collect the containers from res. halls once they are closed for Easter break.
- Dalton shared that approximately 25 people volunteered for the campus cleanup last week, which hauled in fourteen bags of garbage from the woods!

4. Upcoming Events -

April 25 8:30 to 9:45 – Professor Mooney’s Environmental Ethics class presentations in Duffy 120

April 26 12:00 to 2:00 – Earth Month Celebration on the Quad

April 30 at 8:30 – ESC Meeting in Irish Studies Library (final meeting of the year)

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 a.m.