



STONEHILL COLLEGE

Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

1:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

MINUTES

Attendees: Lucy Almberg '21, Craig Binney, Bruce Boyer, Kristi Burkholder, Christian Castriotta '22, Kim Cordeiro, John Duggan, Jessa Gagne, Dave Griffin, Jill Gruskowski '21, Michelle Lee Guiney (Waste Management), Bridget Lawrence-Meigs, Brittany Lorgeree, Bob MacEachern, Chanel Mazzone, Fr. Tim Mouton, Deb Norton, Paul Ricci, Rob Rodgers, Louisa Rossel '21, Cheryl Schnitzer (Chair), Greg Wolfe

The meeting commenced at 1:00 p.m. and was chaired by Prof. Cheryl Schnitzer.

1. Welcome

Cheryl welcomed everyone and began the meeting with a video featuring Shana Weber, Director of the Office of Sustainability at Princeton University. Shana discusses their 2019 Action Plan, and its seven pillars, that they are focusing on to work toward their goals.

<https://youtu.be/q8L53ahEyhk>

Cheryl stated that great work has been done here on campus, and she urged everyone to read our Sustainability Reports, which are located on Stonehill's *Sustainability* webpage. (These are also located in the ESC SharePoint folder.) It is imperative that we continue our work, and we need to make our goals clear.

2. Zoom Meeting Best Practices

Utilize the "Raise Hand" feature in Zoom (within the Participants window). Also, avoid using the "Chat" feature as we want to capture discussions in the meeting minutes.

3. Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2020, meeting minutes were approved.

4. ESC Sub-Committees

Four sub-committees were formed last year, and progress was being made prior to the pandemic in March. The sub-committees include Communications & Marketing, Strategic Planning, Waste Reduction, and Real Food. At this time, it is very important that we add an Environmental Justice sub-committee. Everyone selected a sub-committee, then the groups went into Zoom breakout rooms to work on this year's goals.

- ▼ **Breakout Room 1** **Communications & Marketing**
 - Chanel Mazzone, Advancement
 - Deb Norton, Operations
 - Fr. Tim, FYE & Leadership
 - Greg Wolfe, Purchasing
- ▼ **Breakout Room 2** **Strategic Planning**
 - Bruce Boyer - Facilities Management
 - Craig Binney, Operations
 - Jessa Gagne, Operations
 - Kim - Mission
 - Kristi Burkholder, Faculty, ENV Science
- ▼ **Breakout Room 3** **Waste Reduction**
 - Bob MacEachern Facilities
 - Brittany Lorgeree, Campus Ministry
 - Michelle
 - Paul Ricci - FM
- ▼ **Breakout Room 4** **Real Food**
 - Bridget Lawrence-Meigs, The Farm, she/her
 - Christian Castriotta, SGA
 - Lucy Almberg, student
- ▼ **Breakout Room 5** **Environmental Justice**
 - Dave Griffin- Res Life
 - John Duggan, Business Administration
 - Louisa Rossel, Students for Environmental Action
 - Rob Rodgers, Political Science
 - Jill Gruskowski

Once the full meeting resumed, Cheryl shared the Goals tracking spreadsheet, which is located within the ESC SharePoint folder. **Each sub-committee is to update their section of the spreadsheet and continue to meet between ESC meetings.**

Chanel discussed the breakout session of the Communications & Marketing sub-committee. This group discussed the best ways to get information to students. We should resurrect the idea of a Sustainable Skyhawk newsletter. Also, a calendar of campus-wide sustainable events should be created and maintained on the College's Sustainability webpage. Cheryl pointed out that this sub-committee is there to assist the other sub-committees with any communications needs. Greg noted that Celia had created a Sustainable Skyhawks flyer in lieu of distributing the Green Kits this year. This will need to be shared with first year students.

Craig reviewed the Strategic Planning breakout session. This sub-committee serves as an umbrella for the other subcommittees' goals. We need to continue to try to tie our goals with the College's Strategic Plan. Several ESC members worked very hard, talking with Strategic Planning Committee members, to promote sustainability. It was also mentioned that this might be a good time to push a sustainability requirement into the general ed. curriculum review. The bottom line, the ESC needs to infiltrate as many areas of the College as possible, to bring sustainability to the forefront of people's minds.

Bob discussed the Waste Reduction sub-committee's session. There is concern with having to eliminate the Green ToGo initiative this year. The increase in waste has been substantial, but

hopefully we can start this up again by next year. Michelle stated that there has been such a frenzy to switch back to disposables during the pandemic, while there is a lot of evidence that reusables are not harmful to use at this time. Greg explained that Dining Service's (Sodexo) is not using green containers due to the unknown transmission of COVID-19. Although it was thought that there was a potential risk, more is being learned. Perhaps this can be revisited for next semester, but it won't be a quick change. Bridget noted that there is a lot of student interest in expanding our composting efforts, and Cheryl suggested that we try to work with Black Earth.

Lucy discussed the Real Food breakout session. The Real Food Working Group continues to meet every other week, and baseline data will be available soon. It has been decided that the College will not re-sign the Real Food Challenge but will continue to work toward our 20% *real food* goal, particularly with purchasing from local food sources.

Louisa reviewed the Environmental Justice breakout session. They discussed what their goals should be. Concerns centered around economics and ecology, and how to apply these issues to Stonehill. Once their goals are determined, an action plan can be developed. Greg discussed the 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge, developed by Food Solutions NE, that he has taken part in. It is a very comprehensive look at our sustainability habits.

<https://foodsolutionsne.org/21-day-racial-equity-habit-building-challenge/>

It was noted that it's okay if there are overlapping goals among sub-committees. Just be creative. Sub-committees should meet in between our monthly ESC meetings.

5. Stonehill Divisions: Sustainability Accomplishments & Goals

Last year a spreadsheet was created to track the College's sustainability efforts by division. It is in the ESC SharePoint folder. Rob had presented the Academics Division's Sustainability Plan last year. These efforts should continue, possibly as a friendly challenge among divisions. This can be a focus for our next ESC meeting.

6. Website Updates

Cheryl pointed out the *Sustainability* webpage (<https://www.stonehill.edu/offices-and-services/sustainability/>) and that it should be kept up to date with pertinent information such as the ESC's goals, Sustainability Reports, etc. Also, the *Sustainable Skyhawks Mark Earth Day* webpage, developed by Celia Dolan, can be updated and re-used. In April, this creative initiative had 90 community members share tips for leading a more sustainable life. This proved to be a great way for students, faculty and staff to connect.

7. ESC SharePoint folder

All ESC documents (sub-committee information, meeting minutes, Sustainability Reports, etc.) are stored here:

<https://studentsstonehill.sharepoint.com/sites/FinDiv/Ops/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?viewid=f24ab05d%2D0d71%2D49b5%2Db176%2D762ed2f36ae9&id=%2Fsites%2FFinDiv%2FOps%2FShared%20Documents%2FSustainability>

Please let Deb know if you have trouble accessing it.

8. Other Business

Jessa noted that Stonehill received an impressive Green Rating of 88 from the Princeton Review last year. Based on our annual survey results, the College has improved steadily from a low of 73 in 2012.

Cheryl asked new members to share their initial feelings regarding the ESC. Several stated their excitement with becoming involved with this group and its mission, feeling hopeful and encouraged. Bridget and Chanel added that they are particularly excited about adding the Environmental Justice sub-committee.

The 2021 Northeast Farm to Institution Summit will be held, 100% virtually, in April. If you would like to be involved, please reach out to Bridget.

Greg pointed out that we all represent different groups, departments and divisions, and we should all have a to-do list of sustainability-related goals.

Please remember to send information about all campus wide sustainability-related initiatives to Deb in order to be captured in the next Sustainability Report.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Future meetings:

October 21 at 1:00 p.m.

November 18 at 1:00 p.m.

Submitted by Deb Norton