



Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

1:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

MINUTES

Attendees: Lucy Almberg '21, Craig Binney, Bruce Boyer, Holly Brennan (Sodexo), Kristi Burkholder, Felicia Cafua '22, Christian Castriotta '22, Kim Cordeiro, Linda DesRoches (Sodexo), Jessa Gagne, Dave Griffin, Michelle Lee Guiney (Waste Management), Bridget Lawrence-Meigs, Bob MacEachern, Chanel Mazzone, Fr. Tim Mouton, Deb Norton, Paul Ricci, Rob Rodgers, Andrea Romig (Photonics), Cheryl Schnitzer (Chair), Colin Spencer, Greg Wolfe

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

1. **Meeting Minutes**

The January 26, 2021, meeting minutes were approved as amended.

2. **Subcommittee Updates**

- Real Food – Students from the working group attended the *Hindsight is 2020: Celebration and Reflection with Real Food Challenge* online event on February 5, where those institutions that have met the Real Food Challenge shared information with other attendees. Lehigh University and Fort Lewis College both have Sodexo for their dining services, and we are reaching out to them for food labeling ideas. Our goal is to add more local, fresh foods; if we reach 20%, that would be great.

Middlebury College uses a card system that offers incentives for students to buy real food. This could be a good idea for Stonehill, possibly for next fall.

There was discussion about the student group SADD (Student Advocates for Delicious Dining) who are from a senior Communications class. Their goal is to improve food on campus, but they have not communicated what their specific concerns are or provided any ideas for improvements. They have yet to reach out to Sodexo.

- Environmental Justice – The group met on February 18 and are working on Green Tips and planning for an Earth Day event. They will be attending today's online Catholic Climate Covenant program for ideas and will provide an Earth Day events update at the March ESC meeting.
- Waste Reduction – Waste reduction is difficult at the Commons due to the use of single-use to-go containers. The group is considering creating signage, and possibly suggestions on the BITE app, to remind students not to take items that they don't need (utensils, straws, etc.).

Bob noted that by next fall's semester, half of the student-body will not have used Green2Go containers on campus. This might be a good opportunity to resurrect the program.

There was discussion about composting and revisiting the Black Earth proposal in order to remove some items from our waste stream. Labor and funding are large hurdles for this program. It was noted that a small group of students piloted post-consumer composting last semester without much success. Post-consumer composting in the Commons can be revisited in the fall, with proper education and signage.

Cheryl updated the group on the development of the Green2Go app. The Computer Science students selected this project from a total of twelve proposals. They are moving quickly, and getting input from Greg, Kathleen, and Michelle. Colin has been working on app images; however, Professor Duggan saw a very similar app already named Green2Go. He believes that we may have to come up with a new name.

- Communications/Marketing – The group is working on several Green Tips, one of which is related to going meatless during the Lenten season. Admission tour route signage is in the works.
- Strategic Planning – This group's objective is to create a five-year plan, and Craig is asking the other subcommittees to send him 2-3 bullet points of their goals that would span the next five years. These should be high-level, flexible goals.

Kristi provided an update on the GenEd task force, which is currently on hold while it is determined how to proceed with the departure of Liz Chase. There are still three program proposals on the table, two of which involve pathways to incorporate sustainability. Provost DeBrenna Agbenyiga will be providing the task force with an updated timeline. They are also anticipating faculty feedback on the three proposals.

3. Other Business

There was discussion about recycling the single-use containers being used at the Commons. These are made of polypropylene, not paper, but have a black bottom, so they are non-recyclable. If we switched to a recyclable paper container, they would often have too much food stains to recycle. Holly noted that Sodexo is currently receiving a lot of substitutions from their suppliers for products such as to-go containers.

Bob noted that recycling seems to be at a normal level. He will check if there has been much contamination in the recycling.

The meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Next meetings:

March 30 at 1:00 via Zoom

April 27 at 1:00 via Zoom

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

Submitted by Deb Norton