



# STONEHILL COLLEGE

## **Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting**

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

1:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

### **MINUTES**

Attendees: Craig Binney, Bruce Boyer, Kim Cordeiro, Kathleen Fitzgerald (Sodexo), Michelle Lee Guiney (Waste Management), Gina Herosian '23, Brittany Lorgeree, Deb Norton, Paul Ricci, Andrea Romig, 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**

Following review, the April 27, 2021, meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

#### **2. Accomplishments and Goal Planning Discussions**

##### **a. Choose2Reuse App Update**

Cheryl reviewed Professor Dugan's Computer Science class presentation on the development of the Choose2Reuse app, which details the impressive work behind the scenes. Two students will continue to work with us over the summer and fall, making changes to the app and website as needed.

Different scenarios were discussed regarding lost/damaged containers and students incurring fees. There will be a Choose2Reuse reward system (e.g., free cookie) for the timely return of containers. Students will receive two free containers. Still to be done: Place QR stickers on containers; Sodexo and Facilities will learn how to use the Choose2Reuse website, which provides a lot of information.

It was suggested that there be a Choose2Reuse information station during Community Engagement Day (August 23). Students could learn how the program works, and ~100 students could sign up to be part of a pilot program during the fall semester.

Colin noted that Marketing can include Choose2Reuse information in the Dining section of the student orientation materials.

##### **b. Freshmen Green Kits**

Following discussion, it was decided that Green Kits will not be given out this year. Vendor donations are not expected this year. Also, if students are not motivated to be more sustainable, Green Kits only create more stuff to lay around or end up in landfills. Greg added that Green Kits are supposed to be an annual student-led initiative.

c. Marketing/Signage/Emails

Chanel provided notes on the Marketing/Communications subcommittee's efforts: Our strategic plan is to create college-wide awareness of sustainability initiatives through email, bulletins, social media, and other forms of communication. We hope to use social media and other resources to spread the word and increase environmental literacy on campus. Some ideas include:

- Social Media Marketing
- Biweekly emails spreading knowledge about sustainable choices
- Increase awareness of the College's sustainability goals and accomplishments through signage on Admission tour routes
- Environmental literacy surveys sent out to see if we are accomplishing our goals
- Encourage student involvement in sustainable initiatives
- College-wide calendar of environmental and sustainable events happening on campus
- Communication and collaboration between other ESC subcommittees

d. ESC Strategic Plan

Craig explained that the Post-It Note exercise the ESC completed two years ago helped us to create a useful roadmap. Our [Planning Document](#) will hold us accountable and help to keep us focused. In the fall we will review the document and possibly change some objectives.

The ESC must continue to "infiltrate" the campus with its mission.

e. Earth Week Activities

Kathleen reviewed the Sodexo events held during Earth Week, including no beef, pick-a-plate (instead of a to-go container), and a farmer's market selling local dairy products, meats, cheeses, dips, juices, and vegetables.

f. Moving Forward with Limited Financial Resources

Craig noted that all of higher education is experiencing financial constraints right now. Stonehill revenue has fallen \$10 million during the pandemic, and, although we have responded very well, we still need to cut \$1.5 million in FY 2022. The ESC has come up with good ideas, but they cost money, so most cannot be done right now. However, we still have the Green Fund (approximately \$7,000) for kickstarting small initiatives.

3. **Other Business**

Compost

It was asked if we can work with Black Earth Compost, particularly since we may not be in compliance of the ½ ton per week organic waste limit, when it goes into effect. Craig noted that the Green Fund cannot be used for reoccurring costs. He added that our declining balance meal plan helps to keep food waste down.

Michelle offered to assist if we begin a res. hall compost program. The bins would be located outdoors and would require student volunteers and be maintained by Facilities. It was noted that

the compost bin outside of Rehoboth Hall was removed due to damage and lack of use. It was in a poor location with no signage.

#### ESC Appointments

Craig will be reaching out to division heads this summer for their annual appointment of ESC member(s). Although these are appointed members, everyone is welcome to attend and participate in the ESC.

Cheryl thanked Michelle Lee Guiney from Waste Management for her years of dedication to the ESC. Much appreciated!

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

***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