

University Sustainability Committee

February 16, 2017

Members Present: Dr. James Bridgeforth, Dr. Glen Borchert, Victor Cohen, Josh Crownover, Sabrina de Jong, William Guess, Dr. Krista Harrell, Cecelia Martin, Diana Nichols, Brad Sanders

Members Absent: Todd Culp, Ben Hannan, Dr. Doug Marshall, Kelly Rushing

Call to Order/Minutes: The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M. by Dr. James Bridgeforth. The minutes for the January 19, 2017 were approved.

Old Business:

1. Kelly Rushing has updated the website.

New Business:

1. Signs and Posters are in: Phase I is near complete with Shelby, Administration and Communications. The posters and stickers were paid for by the administration. Diana Nichols designed the poster. Bill Guess is supplying the plastic sign holders that will be used buildings. Todd Culp is in the process of having posters posted throughout the university.
2. Updating Memberships
 - A. SGA elections will be held in April and the representative will be appointed after the election.
 - B. Student Sustainability Council will appoint a representative after their election is held.
 - C. Faculty Senate- Dr. Bridgeforth will email Dr. Fisher (Head of Faculty Senate) regarding appointment to the committee.
William Guess will also be officially appointed to the committee.
3. Building Recycling Champions Position Description was submitted by Dr. Doug Marshall.
“The movement to put the University of South Alabama at the forefront of regional sustainability efforts is entering a critical and long-awaited phase as we implement a campus-wide building-by-building recycling program. Our goal is that staff within each campus building will soon be able to recycle paper, aluminum, plastic, cardboard and glass at their deskside, while students and other users of the building will have easy access to muliti-stream bins for all of the above items in every hallway. To be fully effective, this program will require that each building have a “Building Recycling Champion” or BRC (“brick”) to serve as the contact person/information point for everyone in that building. Their primary job will be to publicize the program to their colleagues, increase its visibility, answer questions, and help troubleshoot issues as they arise, but they will also assist the sustainability committee with monitoring how the program is working in their building. Like most important jobs on campus, the position pays nothing, except in this case, the satisfaction of knowing that you’re a brick in the effort to build real sustainability here at South. If you are interested in being a BRC for your building, please contact

James Bridgeforth, Chair of University Sustainability.

4. Building Recycling Champions Recruitment Team & Plan – Held over to next meeting.

5. Moving Sustainability Forward

Dr. James Bridgeforth has proposed the following Four Areas/Sub-committees.

- Communications - Diana Nichols to chair this sub-committee.
 - Engineering will have the recycling posters posted to their electronic boards.
- Philosophy/Approach to Sustainability – Cecilia Martin and Dr. Krista Harrell to co-chair this sub-committee.
 - Propose a Mission/Vision Statement to University Administration by August 2017.
- Expansion of Recycling Activity - William Guess and Todd Culp to co-chair this sub-committee.
 - Four movers will begin picking up recycling 2 hours every day. Also, one student worker will be hired to work in the recycling facility.
 - Containers for buildings will be delivered this week.
- Expansion of Community Gardening – Dr. Glen Borchert to co-chair this sub-committee.
 - Begin looking for an alternate location for the community garden.

Dr. Bridgeforth has asked everyone who is serving on the sub-committee to report their plans within the next couple of months.

Open Discussion:

SGA President Josh Crownover inquired about the current status of the recycling center closing on campus. William Guess explained that the recycling center is only closing to the public on March 1st (not to the university). This decision was made due to security concerns, items being “dumped” and costing the university to have it disposed. The recycling warehouse is not large enough (or staffed) to handle public recycling. The university is strongly encouraging the public to take their recyclables to the Hitt Road location.

Brad Sanders and Dr. Glen Borchert will work together for food (compost) to be picked up on a regular basis to be used in the community garden.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

