

HENDRIX
COLLEGE
Campus Sustainability
Fund Committee

Agenda for January 21, 2016 (11:10AM Campbell South)

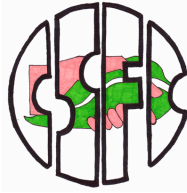
Members of the CSFC:

William O'Brochta '16, Chief Sustainability Officer, CSFC Chair,
ECC Campus Campaigns Chair
Abby Gatmaitan '17, Environmental Concerns Committee Chair
Elizabeth Soo '17 and Cade Nelson '17, Garden Club Co-Presidents (Absent)
Kaylee Davis '18, At-Large Student Member, ECC Galloway Representative
Annie Meek '18, At-Large Student Member, ECC Martin Representative
Faith Mullins '17, At-Large Student Member, Glass Recycling Student Worker (Absent,
comments on the agenda before the meeting)
Dr. Courtney Hatch, Environmental Studies Department Chair
Mr. Skip Harstell, Director of Facilities Management (Absent)
Mr. Mike Flory, Executive Director of Culinary Services (Absent)
Mr. Jim Wiltgen, Executive Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students
Mr. Tom Siebenmorgen, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Guests:

Erica Benoit, ECC Secretary
Ms. Dawn Hearne, Director of Dining Services
Eric Plemmons
Farai Musariri '16

1. Welcome
 - a. Go around the room including invited guests.
 - b. Attendance by the Secretary and adoption of last meeting's minutes.
2. Review Agenda
3. Report by the CSFC Chair
 - a. Other projects being proposed. Sprinklers were noted as a priority by students but no other proposals are expected by the February 1st project deadline.
 - b. Discussion of the goal and purpose of the composting project.
 - i. Most requested project by students was to address cafeteria food waste.
 - ii. Hendrix already has an institutional history of investigating this problem.
 - iii. Return on investment.
 - iv. Opportunities for student involvement.
 - v. Visible, large project.
 - vi. Sizeable sustainability impact.
4. Composting/Post-Consumer Food Waste Handling Project:
 - a. Erica Benoit, presentation on potential customer base.
 - Initial calls to garden centers resulted in 2 interested customers who thought they could commit to purchasing the product.
 - Others this time were concerned with the high price of the compost (\$20 cheaper for other brands). Most sellers get composting from American Composting.



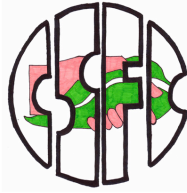
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-There is a market for this type of local composting, but the price was too high. We need to find a niche market and sellers.

-Dawn: Could American Composting take our food waste. Response: We would have to pay them to take our food waste.

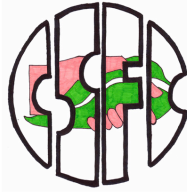
-Eric Plemmons noted that we could take the composting to the city landfill (to place with their composting) for free. However, the City of Conway does not accept food waste, just bulk and brush.

- b. Student interest survey has been released. Results:
- i. Over 100 people participated in the survey.
 - ii. Are you in support of the composter proposal, which involves purchasing and operating an in-vessel composting system? Over 70% said yes.
 - iii. We asked how well informed people were about the project. Most had read parts of the proposal, read CSFC notes, and heard information from other people about it. Only 20% indicated they knew nothing about it.
 - iv. Summary of comments:
 1. Too large of a project/too much cost. Some people suggested using the money for smaller projects.
 2. May have to hire additional people, which provides additional cost.
 3. Small profit margin.
 4. May not have buyers or may have issues with sustained support.
 5. Environmental impact: may be beneficial, but may have some costs associated with it.
 6. Spending future money: some are concerned, some think it is a smart plan.
 7. Will impress prospective students and draw awareness from the local community.
 8. Many students commented that it was a great idea and that they had no problem with the funding plan.
 - v. Summary of other project suggestions:
 1. Sprinklers (mostly).
 2. Food waste should remain the focus of projects at this time. Some that were not in support of the composting project were in support of other projects to reduce food waste.
 3. Energy audits/performance measurement and energy waste reduction strategies (low flow showers, occupancy sensors, better temperature monitoring)
 4. Water bottle filling stations.
 5. Make campus more bicycle friendly.
 6. Improve grounds maintenance
 - vi. Other food waste reduction strategies (list was scrambled):
 1. Almost all participants supported, whether they liked the composting system or not: Food recovery, donating food waste.



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2. Strategies with more than majority support: food waste awareness signage, large/small portion size options in the Homestyle line, nutritional information on non-Homestyle line items, dish room staff reporting commonly un-eaten food
 3. Strategies that have some support: portion sizing pictures on self service items, investing in a pulper to reduce volume of food waste, relocating trays and utensils, reducing the size of plates, eliminating trays.
5. Potential for Three College Collaboration:
- a. Starting meetings between UCA, Hendrix, and CBC to discuss food recovery and composting collaborations. First meeting was back in December. Partner with the company because there is too much of a load to do it ourselves. If the company can't take the waste then the company would be able to put us in contact with farmers that could purchase and pick up the raw material.
 - Dawn had concerns about labor and consistency of pick up. The solution would be possibly using a pulper that concentrates the volume of the food waste and dish room workers would scrap the plates as they normally would. Abbey had concerns about cost. It would also lower water waste by recycling water. The typical pulper would be \$50k, but that's just an estimate.
 - Tom wanted to know more about the company. The company has a facility. They are looking into expanding into Conway if they have the consumer base from the collages. They may expand into Faulkner County Urban Farm. Tom is in favor of looking for these types of alternatives. Dawn mentioned that it would take the responsibility off the college to be in the composting business.
 - Student guest raised the possibility of the city landfill. Response: the city only takes bulk and brush (no food). They would not be willing to invest with us to expand their program to include food waste.
 - Dr. Hatch and the Dean also expressed support of these alternative options. The Dean and Dawn expressed concerns about infrastructure and piping for the pulper, but they said that it is not an insurmountable task.
 - Abbey suggested keeping the survey out for at least another week to get more people.
6. Action Items (All):
- a. In light of the suggestion from UCA to collaborate with them on Food Recovery and Composting and the challenges with the ROI for the project, it might make more sense to transition this project toward finding a way to send our food waste to be composted elsewhere and participate in food recovery, since the in-vessel proposal was supported by the majority of students and these two other proposals were overwhelmingly popular.
 - Dean mentioned that we are looking for a new glass-recycling worker.
 - Annie spoke with the Ministry Center and they would be happy to take our excess food.
 - UCA has students involved with food recover and have offered to partner with us to help us (vice versa) with our program. Hendrix would be able to provide more consistency



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and UCA would be able (to a certain extent) to provide food during the winter and summer.

-Farai had a question about the responsibility of the operation of composting system. Responsibility, as was stated in the application will be split between staff and student workers. He expressed (as a dish room worker) the amount of extra work involved during the busy hours. He suggested having the scrapping happen before the dish room workers got the trays. Some colleges have the students scrap their own plates. Mr. Flory thinks it would be difficult to implement in our cafeteria.

7. Dismissal (next general meeting Thursday, February 4th at 11:10AM in Campbell South, Reminder that applications for large projects are due on February 1st.)