

## Meeting Notes for December 3, 2015 (12:10PM 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

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

Dr. Courtney Hatch, Environmental Studies Department Chair

Mr. Skip Harstell, Director of Facilities Management

Mr. Mike Flory, Executive Director of Culinary Services

Mr. Jim Wiltgen, Executive Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

Mr. Tom Siebenmorgen, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

## **Guests in Attendance:**

Miranda Donakey '18

Ms. Dawn Hearne, Director of Dining Services

## 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

Account Balance			
TOTAL	33517.43		
Date	Amount	Category	Description
9/1/15	26140	Sustainability Fee	@\$20/student for Fall 2015
10/13/15	8000	Donation	Anonymous donation
10/14/15	-233.42	Metal Cups Project	Pilot study of metal cups project
11/9/15	-332.5	Composting Project	City of Conway Permit and Sign
11/9/15	-56.65	Composting Project	Log Cabin Democrat Legal Ad

- 4. Project Applications (none submitted by December 1<sup>st</sup>)
- 5. Projects Being Implemented/Working Projects
  - a. Composting Project:
    - i. Zoning Ordinance Variance Application completed with review by Planning and Zoning Board on December 21<sup>st</sup>.



- 1. During time between submission of application and final decision we were going to spend time working on other items on the checklist.
- 2. Received request from Senior Leadership this past Tuesday to withhold application until January when we have more information about customers. Reason: we need to maintain positive relationships with the City, if we are going to use the Zoning Board's time then we need to go through with the project. We are going to hold the zoning permit application until the February meeting.
- ii. Additional customers contacted to gauge interest. Erica Benoit is leading this effort. Contacted three customers who have interest in talking with us about the composting project. Will continue making contact with nursery centers.
  - 1. What about making contact with landscaping companies and farmers/local organic co-ops? This was a good suggestion that will be pursued.
- iii. Additional awareness meeting held for students.
- iv. MOU edits completed and final draft will be sent to the group for comments. Mr. Siebenmorgen will take MOU and checklist to Senior Leadership.
- v. Reached out to other colleges with composting systems and verified that their extra time in the dish room due to composting is low.
- vi. Sample compost coming from Washington State Correctional Center.
- vii. Purchase Order to be signed upon successful completion of MOU, demonstrated interest from customers, and application for the zoning ordinance.
- viii. Project on track to be implemented as scheduled.
- ix. Mr. Siebenmorgan drafted a list of questions that we need to know from potential customers.
  - 1. What's the volume of the compost? Seasonal compost? What would you pay for the compost? Location of operation? Loading and transportation of compost? Frequency of travel?
    - a. If anyone has more questions for potential customers please send questions to William who will relay them to Erica Benoit.
- x. We will be sent sample compost from a location that uses the same composting project.
- xi. Faith expressed concerns about the costs versus the benefits of the project. She said that the costs, if they were really as high as Mr. Siebenmorgen projects, are concerning and that there may be better ways to spend the money in the Fund. Faith said she was initially very supportive of the project, but is not sure now given the costs.



- xii. Dr. Hatch questioned whether the costs that Mr. Siebenmorgen is estimating for labor are really realistic.
- xiii. Faith was also concerned about allocating money not yet in the Fund. Annie stated that there would be money reserved to fund additional projects, so there really still is at least \$5000 per semester for the first three years to go toward sustainable projects.
- xiv. Annie expressed her support for the project and thinks that it needs to go forward.
- xv. Liz also expressed her support for the project and volunteered the help of Garden Club to reduce the amount of paid labor involved in operating the system.
- xvi. Several people, including Dr. Hatch, suggested using student worker labor to reduce costs.
- xvii. The Dean mentioned the necessity of getting in contact with potential customers as we move forward. William said that holding the project could be concerning for the compost system company because they have been very accommodating so far and we want to drag them out as little as possible. The Dean also said that we should continue to proceed and get this customer information.
- xviii. Abby suggested that we distribute a survey to students to re-gauge their interest in the project. The Dean stated that a survey showing support would show the administration that there was a mandate for the project to take place and cause the administration to continue to try to make it work out. There was general consensus on this point.
  - xix. Mr. Siebenmorgen questioned if composting was environmentally beneficial. He stated that he e-mailed Dr. Hatch on this issue. Several people stated that composting was beneficial, and William cited several studies stating that composting was the first major campus sustainability issue that should be addressed.
  - xx. Ms. Hearne inquired whether we are really diverting any waste because much of it goes down a garbage disposal. Annie and several people clarified that this waste is then screened and dumped into a landfill, so the waste is still produced along with the water used to wash the waste down the disposal.
- xxi. The Dean suggested we hold a meeting in January to update everyone on progress.
- 6. Dismissal (next compost project update Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:10AM in Campbell South; next general meeting Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:10AM in Campbell South)