

# **University Sustainability Committee**

**April 25, 2019**

**Members Present:** Dr. James Bridgeforth, Victor Cohen, Todd Culp, William Guess, Cecelia Martin, Diana Nichols

**Members Absent:** Dr. Glen Borchert, Dr. John Cleary, Dr. Krista Harrell, Bailey Hoffman (Student Sustainability), Dr. Doug Marshall, Mary Beth Massey, Brad Sanders, Dr. Stephanie Smallegan, SGA Representative

**Guest:** Scott Clausen

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M. by Dr. James Bridgeforth

## **Old Business:**

1. The minutes for the March 21, 2019 meeting were approved.
2. Sub-committee Chair Reports & Updates
  - a. Cecelia Martin: STARS Taskforce – Cecelia reported that she has received some feedback regarding the STARS Taskforce that will be discussed at the next meeting.
  - b. Victor Cohen: Campus Engagement – Victor Cohen reported this subcommittee met April 11, 2019 and discussed they are delaying the Qualtracs survey so that it does not interfere with the STARS Taskforce Assessment. Victor also informed the committee of two legislative bills that will be voted on next week. These bills would prohibit local governing bodies from banning the use of plastic grocery bags.
  - c. Diana Nichols: Marketing & Communication – Diana reported that she is posting regularly to the Sustainability social medial accounts promoting upcoming events, for example, the clean-up day that was held a few weeks ago. Diana also stated that the recycling truck logo will be changing to promote Coke™. She is also in the process of updating the recycling promotional posters with updated data information.
  - d. Todd Culp: Operations: Todd Culp reported that Recycling now has a budget, however, at this time there is not any money allotted for it. At this time recycled cardboard is being donated to the Hitt Road Facility but he is unsure how things will be handled in the future. Todd will send Diana the recycling amounts so that she can post it on the Sustainability website.

## **New Business**

1. Welcome Scott Clausen from Campus Recreation – Water Bottle Project: Scott is proposing that water bottles be sold at different campus locations (bookstore, campus recreation, etc.) to promote refilling water bottles and to cut down on the

amount of plastic that is being used. He is proposing that a map with the locations of water bottle filling stations be on the water bottle so that the individual will know where they can go to refill their bottles.

Enrollment Services will be contacted to inquire if a water bottle can be given during orientation for new students. It was recommended for Scott to ask if interested.

2. Update on Coke Straw less project: Dr. Bridgeforth reported that the committee is reviewing a potential limited pilot program to reduce straw use in the Student Center.
3. Follow up Chandra Wright presentation: Dr. Bridgeforth thanked those involved in bringing her to the university. William Guess suggested that the committee visit The Lodge at Gulf Shores and promote the programs that are being offered at The Lodge.
4. Berney Commercial Toner Recycling: Dr. Bridgeforth reported that he was contacted by a Berney representative regarding recycling empty ink cartridges. The options for recycling ink cartridges on campus are: 1) the department can donate them to a non-profit charity organization, 2) they can be taken to the Hitt Road Facility with other recyclable materials or 3) can be sent to Berney to be repurposed. The committee agrees that all of the options are acceptable. The goal is to NOT put ink cartridges in the waste stream.
5. STARS Campus Message: Cecelia Martin reported that she is preparing a message to share with the campus to help promote the STARS Taskforce project. Dr. Bridgeforth and Diana Nichols will assist Cecelia with putting out a statement.
6. Open Floor & Other Discussion Items: William Guess reported that he is meeting with the City and County representatives Connie Hudson and Bess Rich and representative from Neowaste at the Hitt Road Facility on Monday, May 20, 2019 at 10 am.

The greenhouse for the Community Garden will be ordered next week. Wildflower seeds have been ordered and will be planted on the terrace in front of the Education Outreach Building and on the north side of the Glen Sebastian Trails.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.



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Dr. James Bridgeforth, Director, University Housing