

**Valdosta State University – Environmental Issues Committee**

**Minutes of the Valdosta State University – Environmental Issues Committee  
Thursday, March 17th, 2015 at 8:15 am in Bailey Science Center Room 2023**

People present:

Members:

Theresa Grove (chair), Arsalan Wares (chair elect), Jason Allard (past chair), Brad Bergstrom (is proxy for Linda Most), Jim Nienow, Bobby Flowers, Tommy Crane, Lynn Adams, Rebecca Green, Jennifer Breneiser

Ex officio:

Meredith Lancaster, Ray Sable Traycee Martin

Proxies:

Brad Bergstrom for Linda Most

- A. Approve Minutes of the January 30, 2015 meeting. Minutes were approved.
- B. Announcements:
  - a. T. Grove is leaving for Antarctica on April 3-July 2. If anyone is interested: [theresagrove.blogspot.com](http://theresagrove.blogspot.com)
  - b. The next meeting will be tentatively scheduled for April and will probably be on a Friday.
- C. Reports
  - a. Campus Beautification: B. Bergstrom reported that in late February the subcommittee consulted with Plant Operations personnel on a large longleaf pine tree near Powell Hall, which, although it had a healthy green crown, had an old wound with decay near the base and due to its proximity to Blazer Blvd. and some parking spaces, was deemed a hazard and removed. B. Flowers with help from students enrolled in a VSU Biology Horticulture class planted nearly 50 trees on main campus around March 1; these included 27 trees of various species purchased with Jewel Whitehead Endowment funds, plus ca. 15 shortleaf pine and 7 red maple trees from the VSU greenhouse. Bergstrom is investigating the use of pheromone traps as possible deterrent for pine beetle attack in the old-growth longleaf pine grove.
  - b. Energy Conservation Nothing to report.
  - c. Recycling: Jim Nienow reported that recycling is up and running. They are working on providing guidelines regarding recycling for faculty and staff (for instance, uncontaminated broken glassware can be recycled). They are also choosing a science building and checking what is not being recycled. J. Nienow reported that the dorm recycling competition starts on Monday, March 30, organized by J. Muzzey. T. Hochschild will be organizing a Give-n-Go Campaign around that time. RC is working up a fact sheet for faculty about recycling, including special collection boxes for broken glass (now in use in science buildings, can call J. Muzzey for special pick-up). Members will conduct

a surprise inspection of a science building to sample what is being recycled (and what isn't).

d. Sustainability Committee: Nothing to report.

Master Planning Committee. R. Sable reported, mostly focused on surplus classroom space; BOR is concerned that existing space be fully utilized before any new indoor space is added (i.e., new buildings built); Music/performing arts program may be an exception, given their special needs. A proposed additional greenspace/walkway on south bank of One-mile Branch at Oak Street parking lot came from report of Atlanta consultants hired a couple of years ago (R. Sable

a. will look for pdf or hard copy report and provide to EIC). Bergstrom asked about former master planning done in 2010-11 under Pres. Schloss, on which he, Sable, and Flowers had worked regarding campus grounds. Sable said that was probably Schloss's "Strategic Plan" and no final report was ever issued to his knowledge (Terry Sullivan was organizing this). Grounds portion of that plan was discussed; T. Martin suggested that most all of the goals listed in late 2010 were still valid; Bergstrom agreed—except for two goals finished, others were ongoing interests of CBSS. Need to make more green area next to the stream. We don't want to plant anymore prohibitive invasive plants.

#### D. Old Business

a. What is the status of replacing parking lot lights with LED bulbs?  
Funds were received from Georgia Power as rebate. LED light bulbs have been ordered.

#### E. New Business

a. Any update on when the assistant director of landscape and grounds will be re-advertised?

The plan is to wait another month before we advertise. Only one person was qualified during the last search. The position will be advertised on VSU website.

b. Is VSU completing the objectives from the campus grounds master plan (see attached).

The master plan runs from 2015 to 16. This was initiated in 2011 by Dr. Levy. Bobby Flowers and Brad Bergstrom were co-chairs. Some of these things were done. There was some question about where this plan fits into the "official" plan of the university. You have to search the website for the document. Space utilization of the building was in the master plan. We need to check things that were done. All are worthy goals (except for the last one) Campus Beautification subcommittee will examine and update the campus grounds master plan.

c. Other? T. Lee had suggested we clean up the trash as a part of community project before graduation. We may collaborate with Rivers Alive or Keep Lowndes Beautiful to do the job. SAVE and Tribeta can be also involved.

d. There was some discussion involving some of the outdoor pole-mounted campus lights, particularly those in the parking lots along Georgia Ave. B. Bergstrom mentioned they had been on late morning and late afternoon (didn't check mid-day) for the previous few days. R. Sable said that either meant they were being tested (for bad bulbs) or there was a problem with the timers. (Note: As 18 March the lights are all still on, and they have been burning 24/7 for the past 2-3 weeks; appears that the timer for those lights is not set to turn off at all).

Adjourn adjourned at 9:5