

## Valdosta State University – Environmental Issues Committee

Minutes – Thursday, February 25th, 2016 at 5:00 pm in Bailey Science Fishbowl Room 3026

People present:

Members:

Theresa Grove, Arsalan Wares, Brad Bergstrom, Tommy Crane, Steve Schuler, Tim Brunt

Ex officios:

Jason Allard , Meredith Lancaster, Helena Krumbacher,

Guests:

Monica Haynes, Alan Sanderson

The meeting started at 5:05 pm

A. Approve Minutes of the November 19, 2015 meeting.

We did not have a quorum to approve the minutes

B. Announcements:

- a. I apologize for the scheduling this meeting at this time. I will offer a few time slots to see when people are available before I schedule the next meeting.
- b. Thank you for attending the Annual Lighting Walk on February 11, 2016.
- a. Thank you for attending the Annual Arbor Day and Tree Planting Lighting Walk on February 19, 2016.
- b. Please carefully read Dr. Dixon's attached email and decide if we want to invite him to VSU to talk about climate change. His email contains a couple of links, please visit them as well.

C. Reports

a. Campus Beautification (Chair: Brad Bergstrom)

The committee is about to schedule a meeting soon.

b. Resource Conservation (Chair: Tommy Crane)

The subcommittee met on February 23, 2015 and discussed the following:

- i. marketing Campaign
  - ii. ways to get the message to others.
  - iii. look at AASHE guidelines
  - iv. possible need for a Director of Sustainability or someone that takes on the responsibility in Physical plant.
  - v. goals set in the EIC meeting.
  - vi. possibility of reusable grocery bags given to students, faculty, and staff to advertise and promote EIC and RCC goals.
- c. Recycling (Chair: Sebastian Bartos)

The subcommittee met on February 2, 2016 and discussed and noted the following.

Education about the necessity of recycling would be a crucial element in changing the mentality about unrenovable and renewable resources among VSU students, faculty and administrators.

It was agreed that custodial staff on the VSU campus should be reminded not to mix recyclable items with the rest of trash in the process of emptying trash containers in offices and hallways.

It was noted that a recycling week with the formal involvement of the VSU president would have significant promotional value.

Dr. Tom Hochschild, who has extensive experience in organizing end-of-year recycling in student dorms will be contacted in an effort to involve external organizations that might benefit from goods left behind by VSU students at the end of the spring semester.

It was proposed that empty library boxes and containers should be offered to students moving out of VSU dorms.

It was noted that containers for recyclable cardboards are quickly filled up and need more frequent emptying.

The committee was informed that recycling water from air conditioners as well as generating revenues from any recycling program on the campus seem costly and unrealistic

#### D. New Business

- a. Possible modification of EIC by-laws pertaining to who is qualified to serve as EIC subcommittee chair

We did not have a quorum to modify the by-laws.

- b. Issues pertaining on campus lighting

Even though some parts of campus may seem relatively dark, we have to be careful about adding more and more lights every year. Having too many lights is a waste of resources, and it also affects animals adversely by changing their behavior in an unnatural manner. Some of the lights that have been added recently (e.g. the one near Baily Hall) are not aesthetically pleasing because they are too bright. We need

to take a look at the campus lighting policy. The bus stop on Oak street needs new lights. Mr. Ray Sable needs to be infirmed.

c. Issues pertaining on campus signs

Two new signs will be added, one will be back lit, and the other from top.

d. Issues pertaining cardboard recycling

Cardboards haven't been recycled properly. Mr. Jim Mussey needs to inform the custodians. We need to educate faculty and staff so that they recycle cardboards properly.

E. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm