

Sustainability Committee Meeting

February 8, 2013

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. EAD 703

Welcome

Dr. Youcheng Liu, Co-Chairman of the committee called the meeting to order. Two new PA students, **Andrew Covey** and **Katie Ziliak**, introduced themselves since the former PA student representative, Rema Almasri, was unable to serve this semester.

Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting on December 11, 2012 were made available electronically before this meeting. Dr. Liu asked if a motion would be made to accept the minutes with no changes, and Sallie Spotanski made the motion. It was seconded by Brent Shell and approved by the committee.

Announcements

- Bike Share was approved and the city-wide launch date is April 22, 2013.
 - The voting structure is one vote per person with all votes having equal weight.
 - The first Sustainable UNTHC Newsletter was completed and emailed to the newsletter listserv. If you did not receive the newsletter and would like a copy sent to you please email Sandy to be added to the distribution list. She also has extra flyers available if there are boards where you would like to post one.
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Subcommittee Updates

- Community Garden Subcommittee – Dr. Gustowski and Misty Smethers are the chairs for the subcommittee. Dr. Gustowski reported that the group has had their initial meeting and that a meeting with Facilities was scheduled to answer some questions. The subcommittee is in the process of collecting data, and gathering information needed to start a garden. If you are interested in helping, please contact them.
- Campus Outreach Subcommittee – Betsy Friauf reported for the subcommittee. She explained how the purpose of the committee is to educate the campus, change behavior in favor of sustainability, practice utilizing resources already in place and create new ones. Betsy highlighted several ideas that the committee discussed including:
 - An information booth set up in the MET to answer questions and distribute information about our sustainability programs.
 - Develop the Sustainability Liaison program where there would be a contact person from each department to share sustainability information with.
 - Make videos
 - New Student Orientation welcome packets with information on sustainability. Ideas from the committee meeting were to contact Chris Mason to also have a presence in the new faculty orientation and to try to be included in the new employee orientation.
- Recycling Subcommittee – Kim Williams reported for the subcommittee. She reported on the new use of bright green bags in the comingle recycle bins. This will be a visual reminder that we are recycling and the custodial staff is also being trained to place the recycle bags in the correct dumpster. There has been a big problem reported of people putting food in the recycle bins. When this happens the entire bag must be thrown away. Therefore, the subcommittee is working on new signage for the bins as well. The subcommittee wants to educate the campus to use more of the blue recycle cans in all of the offices and around copy machines to encourage recycling. The committee would also like to encourage more

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participation in the Recycling 2.0 of batteries, cell phones, and ink cartridges. One idea was to have a recycling contact (perhaps this be part of the Sustainability Liaison program) in each department to help facilitate this effort and perhaps to award prizes to the offices that are participating. The committee is also looking into making videos and have articles put in the Connection to help promote recycling.

Earth Day Event

- Date set for Tuesday April 23rd from 11-2pm
 - Location will be the MET Lobby, 109-111, 119, 213, 214 (all confirmed); The E-waste truck will be in the loading dock on the west end.
 - Upcycle/Repurpose Photo Gallery and Contest – if you need flyers to put up, please get them from Sandy. Upcycling means to make something new from waste material or an existing product.
 - Educational Booths – if you know of any booth ideas, please let us know
 - Food/Drinks – UNTHSC's first Zero-waste Event; there will be composting for the plates and food; people must bring their own reusable mug for a drink. We have appetizers and drinks for 300 people.
 - Giveaways and prizes – there will be some giveaways and prizes for participating in the event
 - Volunteers – There will be a signup sheet closer to the date for volunteering at different places
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Additional Water Stations

A discussion was held on whether we should fund more water bottle filling stations on campus. Facilities will be installing water stations during major renovations such as on the EAD 8th floor, the RES School of Pharmacy area, and the library. The library is scheduled to have all of the restrooms remodeled this year. Therefore every floor in the library will have a water station after the renovations are complete.

Sandy has received a lot of positive feedback on the stations through emails, the pledge comments, and in person. Many people would like additional locations. First we will vote on purchasing more stations and how many (each one is around \$3000 each), and then we will vote on locations. The committee has approximately \$80,000 in our account. The committee discussed several locations and decided to vote on the following locations:

- **MET** – 1st floor by the large auditorium. This is an area heavily used by students.
- **PCC** – location would be back by the elevators where it will be heavily used by staff (floor TBD). This building **does not** have a station currently and is the most asked about location.
- **CBH** – 3rd floor. This is an area that will be heavily used by staff.
- **EAD** – 5th floor. These are areas heavily used by students.
- **EAD** – 7th floor. These are areas heavily used by students.

Sandy will put the vote on Qualtrics (the same program as the pledge) due to the nature of the vote. It will be as simple as clicking on the link and completing the questions. The vote will be open for one week.

Dyson Airblades

The next discussion involved purchasing Dyson Airblade hand dryers. The dryers are aimed at reducing paper towel waste, keeping the restrooms clean of paper towels from overflowing bins, lower day to day maintenance, provide quick and hygienic hand drying, and save the campus money over time. Each hand dryer is approximately \$900 but would pay for itself over time in paper towel costs depending on the use.

A suggestion was made by Dr. Allen to look into the Xlerator hand dryers since they cost less (\$500). Courtney Wenzel also suggested that perhaps we wait to see if it can come out of the custodial budget when a new manager is hired. The committee decided to postpone the vote and look into other options.

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Housekeeping

Please make sure to vote on the water bottle stations as the vote is ending on February 26th at 5 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 11 from noon-1 pm in EAD 524.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:59 pm.

Absent members included: Rebecca Sessoms, Andi Spencer, Brenda Harless, Anissa Carbajal-Diaz, Sherry King, Cynthia Alder, Debbie Murray, Jessie Erwin, Katy Kemp, Misty Smethers, Randall Christopher, Sally Ross, Seth Willmoth, Dr. Barber, and Dr. Raines-Milenkov