

# MINUTES

## Sustainability Committee Meeting

August 22, 2013

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. EAD 524

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### Welcome & Minutes

- Dr. Youcheng Liu, Co-Chairman of the committee called the meeting to order. A new committee member, Greg Hanson of TCOM, was introduced as well as two guests including Mary Margaret Rangel from Community Relations and Narciso Tovar from Marketing and Communications.
  - Minutes from the previous meeting on June 27, 2013 were made available electronically before this meeting. There was a minor error with “Committee Business” being repeated, so Dr. Liu suggested the change to take out the repeat. Sallie Spotanski motioned to approve the minutes, and Cynthia Alder seconded that motion. The minutes were accepted unanimously with that change.
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### Announcements & Updates

- Parking Discount: Please let people know that there is a 20% parking discount available for drivers of Low Emission Fuel Efficient Vehicles (LEFE). For more details and to see if the car qualifies, go to [sustainability.unthsc.edu](http://sustainability.unthsc.edu) and click on the “Transportation” tab in the navigation pane or click on the link under “News and Announcements” at the bottom left of the homepage.
  - Facebook: Please “Like” and support the Sustainability Facebook Page at [facebook.com/sustainableUNTHSC](https://facebook.com/sustainableUNTHSC).
  - Energy Sheet: The Office of Sustainability website has created a sheet about energy savings on campus and how people can get involved. Please ask for copies if you’d like to pass them around your office.
  - Shower Access at the FAC for Bike Commuters: In order to use the FAC, one must have a membership because soon the doors will be locked, and members will need to scan their badge for entrance. Also, the FAC has no way of monitoring what people do once they enter the building, and they require even walkers/runners to have a membership even though they don’t use the facilities besides the showers. Therefore, there will be no free passes given for bike commuters.
  - Waterless urinals: Facilities has investigated the use of waterless urinals on campus and has chosen not to install them due to maintenance and feedback from other facility departments. However, Facilities does install low-flow fixtures where possible.
  - Leaf Blowers: The Office of Sustainability spoke with our groundskeepers and they said our campus is too large to have electric leaf blowers. However, they do use them during non-peak hours.
  - Water Stations: Dr. Moorman will be purchasing two new stations for the EAD 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and MET 5<sup>th</sup> floor. They will be installed in the next couple months. In addition, Facilities will install a station on RES 3<sup>rd</sup> floor with the new renovations for the School of Pharmacy.
  - Air North Texas: UNTHSC has joined the Air North Texas campaign to help improve our area’s air quality. The Office of Sustainability will begin to make this more of a priority in the coming year. The website is [airnorthtexas.org](http://airnorthtexas.org).
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### Subcommittee Updates

- Community Garden: The subcommittee is meeting on Friday to finalize the guidelines for the garden. The plan is to get the planning finalized in the fall in order to have planting begin in the spring of 2014. There will be a workday around February to build the plots. If you would like to serve on the subcommittee please email Misty Smethers ([Misty.Smethers@unthsc.edu](mailto:Misty.Smethers@unthsc.edu)).
- Recycling: The Recycling Subcommittee hosted a seminar in July, and 26 people attended to learn more about recycling. Attendees received a UNTHSC branded cutlery set. In addition, the new recycling bin signs have been created and accepted by Facilities. They’re currently on 7 bins around campus, but will go on all the bins within a few weeks. There is also a new Recycling 2.0 bin in the library on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. This makes two receptacles around

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campus. In response to inquiries from the group Sandy, shared the website [earth911.com](http://earth911.com) which includes recycling information and where to recycle most things.

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## Sustainability Liaison Program

- This program was created by the Campus Outreach Subcommittee to promote sustainable practices throughout campus by enhancing our communication, celebrating our successes, and learning where we can improve our efforts.
  - Its goals are to:
    - **Promote sustainable practices** in each department, office, and school and strive towards making sustainability part of our university's culture.
    - **Enhance communication** between the various departments and schools on campus and the Office of Sustainability by methods such as announcements, speaking to peers, posting flyers, communicating comments and suggestions, etc.
    - **Establish and maintain a record of sustainability** on campus for reporting purposes and to aid in setting future goals and initiatives.
  - The role of the liaison is to:
    - **Serve as the department or school contact** for providing information and resources on sustainability best practices.
    - **Disseminate information from the Office of Sustainability** to the various departments, offices, and schools across campus.
    - **Provide feedback and comments to the Office of Sustainability** from their respective department, office, or school.
    - **Shall keep a record of departmental or school sustainability activities** for reporting purposes (reporting template provided by the Office of Sustainability).
    - **Promote and coordinate Recycling 2.0 items** (batteries, ink cartridges, and cell phones).
  - Liaisons will serve one year terms and attend one to two meetings a semester. Awards will be given to departments at the end of the term.
  - What are the differences between the committee and the liaison program? The liaison program is intended to:
    - Be broader and include more people.
    - Reach more people across campus through working relationships and peers.
    - Be less of a time commitment than the committee.
    - Primarily enhance communication across campus while the committee votes on how to spend its sustainability funds, creates new initiatives, etc.
    - Keep a record of sustainability accomplishments of departments and schools for the purpose of sustainability reporting and awards.
  - The liaison program will launch in the fall. If you are interested in serving as a liaison, please let Sandy know.
  - The committee voted to approve spending approximately \$500 on pins to give to liaisons as a way to distinguish them in their departments. Cynthia Alder motioned to approve the expenditure, and Sallie Spotanski seconded that motion.
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## Committee Business

- The term for the committee ends August 31<sup>st</sup>. Please consider whether or not you'd like to serve on the committee next term. By August 31<sup>st</sup>, please let Sandy know if you would like to serve next term.
- The committee voted in the new chair and co-chairs. Sallie Spotanski was nominated to serve as a co-chair and accepted pending committee approval.
- Katie Kemp motioned to approve Dr. Liu as the chair, and Brent Shell seconded that motion. Katy Kemp motioned to approve Sallie Spotanski as a co-chair, and Shantanu Shewale seconded that motion. Sallie Spotanski motioned to

approve Sandy Bauman as a co-chair, and Dr. Liu seconded that motion. The committee voted and approved all three positions.

- Cynthia Alder volunteered to be the secretary for next term. Katy Kemp motioned, and Sallie Spotanski seconded that motion. The committee voted in favor of her as secretary.
  - The committee's expenses for the term were made available to the group prior to the meeting, and there were no questions about it during the meeting.
  - An anonymous end of the term survey has been created. Please complete the survey by September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dr. Liu, Sallie, and Sandy will use the results to improve the committee for next term.
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## End of the Year Review

- Thank you for serving on the Sustainability Committee its first term!
  - Here are highlights from the year:
    - Thirty six students, staff, and faculty from various departments and school on campus were represented.
    - Six subcommittees were formed.
    - Bylaws were drafted and finalized.
    - The Earth Day Event was a huge success! Over 600 people attended, 450 people turned in passport cards indicating they visited four booths or more, 100 people donated electronics weighing over 5,000 lbs., 25 vendors from inside and outside the campus came, 14 submissions in the Upcycled Photo Contest; 170 votes, and 38 volunteers helped with the event.
    - New signage for recycling.
    - New recycling bins.
    - Green bags were implemented for recycling collection.
    - Recycling Seminar with 26 attendees
    - Community Garden is in the works, and 97% of people surveyed said they were supportive of a campus garden.
    - Five new water stations were approved by the committee.
    - Communication was enhanced around campus (newsletter, flyers, etc.)
    - Sustainability Liaison Program is set to begin in the fall.
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## New Business

- It was suggested that the Office of Sustainability give monthly updates to liaisons or student representatives so that the campus can stay updated on sustainability issues. Sandy will have updates available at the beginning of each month.
  - A comment was made that the water station on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the library needed to be cleaned more often. Sandy will contact the custodial manager to make her aware of the station's condition.
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## Housekeeping

Meeting Adjourned at 12:53 pm. The new term will begin with a meeting in October.