**Sustainability Environmental Action Committee**

**Minutes September 15th, 2015**

(Present: Brock Rasmussen, Julie Benda, Niky Motekallem, Naomi Chan, Tom Milbrath, Diana Eicher, Lori Erickson, Dawn Folstrom, Greg Talmo, Pam Newsome-Prochniak)

(Absent: Nate Lutz, Cindy Gilbert, Brett Smith, Jerry Allan, Laura Link, David Yale)

1. **9/15/15**

Introductions and review of mission and members. Committee removes "Purchasing" from member category, and announces Naomi Chan as the new Student Representative.

1. **9/15/15 –** Bee Club News! (Diana & Niky)

Bee Campus USA – Applying to have bees on campus, bees are important pollinators for food. Southern Oregon University is currently the only campus to meet all the criteria. Meet w/Cindy Gilbert in October – she pushed for this proposal. Non-toxic pesticide use for bees.

**Requirements**

* 1. Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM) & Pollinator Plan – would need to coordinate with Facilities, such as maintenance of dorms/pests in general vs with bees/plants on roof
  2. A committee in place to run these programs
  3. Annual Events required
  4. Education – classes offered to students
  5. Bee Arts suggested as a collaborative effort; they have received grants to help further their cause. To help with financial upkeep (signage, maintenance, etc), this collaboration would be helpful.
  6. Concerns – Do we need to replace plants? Native vs Non-native plants or a percentage?

Diana informs committee of the current bee campus standing. Committee advises Bee Club to meet with Facilities on details of IPM or native plantings. Bee club is interested in interested in taking responsibility for events, education, bee arts, and management. Bee club is looking for co-ordination of landscape management.

1. **9/15/15 –** Mia Green Team (Lori & Dawn). Mia green team meets committee to begin a conversation about MCAD/Mia campus co-ordination. Mia is replacing turf with planted pavers for greening and bee accommodation. Ideas to implement solar energy (solar sharing programs); was not cost effective when considered ~ 2 yrs ago. The team meets once a month; about a dozen people total to represent depts. within Mia. They want to coordinate with MCAD since we share a lot to create a green plan for both campuses. \*Note: For solar energy, there are not as many incentives for implementation and to invest costs into it. Also interested in composting at Mia and mirroring success at MCAD.
2. **9/15/15 –** Hennepin County Grant: increased composting on campus and in dorms.GA Heather Peebles informs committee on beginning steps for compost roll-out
   1. Need effective written materials
   2. Lids for Bins in dorms to reduce rodents and smell
   3. Placement considered: Where to place additional bins for more effective composting? “Walt Disney model”

Greg Talmo inquires about compost bins for offices that would like to opt in. Pam Newsome expresses concern with this idea, and emphasizes the extra bins located at the elevators. GA Julie Benda and Greg Talmo consider if offices that opt-in could be responsible for taking out their compost weekly. Pam Newsome reiterates emphasis on non-office compost. The committee does not reach consensus and tables discussion

1. **9/15/15 –** Julie Benda announces Spring Presentation to board of MCAD. Issues and considerations for the May 2016 presentation include:

What are our concerns? What are our accomplishments? Campus timeline that highlights progression of changes. Pam Newsome suggests using the intranet to display progress. Presentation will include intranet site, as well as a format that cohesively conveys initiatives, awards and goals.

1. **9/15/15-** Naomi Chan expresses concern about SEAC visibility to students and other campus staff. She is interested in bringing awareness to the open committee meetings, or ways students can get more involved with campus initiatives.

**Old Business**

1. **4/28/15-** Mercedes Knapp updated committee on Garden Club garden boxes. The five beds will are built, leveled, and placed in the northeast corner of the south parking lot, near student housing and bike racks. The beds will be filled with a 50/50 compost soil mix that will be delivered on the upcoming Saturday. The committee acknowledged Mercedes' initiative and planning process, for both the Facilities and Student Union proposals she put together. The committee also requested some sort of branding to occur around the garden beds, as well as signage for the rest of the MCAD community to identify it by. Mercedes also provided the committee with a brief description of the plants intended, including: bee-friendly flowers, herbs, vegetables, edible flowers, and possibly strawberries.
2. **4/28/5-** Julie Benda informed committee that the previously specified film class would not be creating a composting PSA. Instead, Julie will be in touch with students from the Green Club to have a video for next semester, as well as Green Club members being stationed at the composting bins in the cafeteria for the first few weeks of each semester. Nate Lutz and Michael Baker both brought up the possibility of a video played during orientation so students could be introduced to the concept and details right away. Michael Baker mentioned a video that is available on the Hennepin county website that explains what can be composted, as something to play in lieu of a student made PSA. Nate, Michael and Julie will continue to discuss ways of clarifying the compost and recycling issue and implement necessary steps next semester.
3. **4/28/5-** Michael Baker recapped Recyclemania 2015. No great jumps from previous years. 12th out of 233 participants diverting 4100 tons of material from the waste stream. The committee recognized this as being a very good standing and it will continue to be recorded on the SEAC intranet site. Michael notes that in order to reduce waste much more, product decisions would have to be made. Certain materials such as polystyrene could be recycled as well if the school purchased the appropriate collection bins from the county.
4. **4/28/5-** The committee reviewed the goals and accomplishments sheet attached. Goals included preparing for a spring presentation to MCAD’s board. Brock Rasmussen suggested making a video for the presentation, and Julie Benda volunteered to get ahold of graduate student Robert Gooding for help in that department. The goals also included using the GA position to stay highly engaged with the student group Green Club, in order to maintain momentum and gain support for next years iniatives and projects.
5. **4/28/5-** Pam Newsome suggested reviewing STARS report in order to gain awareness of additional initiatives the committee could easily tackle.
6. **4/28/15-** Michael Baker announces his grant for more composting bins in order to expand the sites around campus. Julie Benda mentioned student interest in dorm composting and Nate Lutz confirms it as a possibility. Nate, Julie and Michael will meet for further discussion on feasibility and interest in a pilot program that requires individual student sign-ups. Pam Newsome asked if grant money for the composting funds could also be used in making the instructional video. Michael will look into this.

**Old Business**

1. **02/03/15-** Aaron DeYoe Presented DesignWorks posters for cafeteria. Stickers will be included for the top surface of the bins. Michael Baker requests that the posters clarify that food contaminated paper products can go into the compost. Michael also presents free posters provided by Hennepin County. After discussion, the committee decided DesignWorks would continue making the posters to stay within an MCAD branding scheme.
2. **02/03/15-** Michael Baker shared that Hennepin County is offering a 10,000 grant and a 50,000 match-grant for institutions to purchase recycling/compost units, etc. Pam Newsome-Prochniak suggested contacting Kate Mohn to follow up with this opportunity.
3. **02/03/15-** Wendy Jedlicka (of MASD faculty) and Beth Mercer-Taylor from the U of M introduced themselves in order to present an array of opportunities involving the upcoming AASHE conference in October 2015. Beth explained the conference is looking for ways guest can explore Minneapolis after conference hours, as well as the need for better representation of art and design at the conference. Call for proposals regarding presentations and specific AASHE sponsored activities is due February 23, and is open to all Faculty, Students and Staff. There is also a possibility to have an art/sustainability show hosted by MCAD, a Pecha Kucha presentation in Auditorium 150, and the opportunity for MCAD to have a booth in the exhibit hall for recruiting, MASD information and other promotions. Pam Newsome and Curt McNamara suggested contacting Cindy Gilbert for booth proposals. Julie Benda, Wendy Jedlicka and Beth will stay in contact to follow through on some of these opportunities.
4. **02/03/15**- Beth and Wendy announced the local host committee meeting for the AASHE conference to be Tuesday Feb. 10th, graduate assistant Julie Benda volunteered to attend and take notes.
5. **12/2/14** Brock Announced MCAD’s new membership to AASHE. A tool for high education institutions to monitor, discuss, and learn more about improving campus sustainability.
6. **12/2/14** Tom Milbrath approached the topic of recycling solvents, specifically in the Print Shop. Looking for ways to reduce the amount that is disposed, for toxic waste reduction and cost benefits.