**Sustainability Environmental Action Committee**

**December 1rst 2015**

**Meeting Minutes**

1. **12/1/15** Emma Marchese and Naomi Chan inform the Committee of their experience participating in the Student Action Network, a grant from Hennepin County for students to work together on behavioral change on campus. They are able to meet with students from campuses around the city once a month for brainstorming and support. Their project is going well and both are looking forward to working on behavioral change in relation to waste, and are developing materials to accompany the compost roll-out.
2. **12/1/15** Heather Peebles and Julie Benda recap AASHE conference. Significant points included: environmental action in relation to equity and social justice; Student networks becoming driving factors for change; and 5-10 year developments of Sustainable committees across that country that evolved to create offices, staff persons and work study positions.
3. **12/1/15** Heather Peebles and Nate Lutz update committee on dorm composting. Roll out will begin at the beginning of Spring semester for clarity and ease. Heather presented materials developed for the roll-out, including a brouchre and posters describing what can be composted, how to avoid smells and pests, where to take the bags once full, as well as where to find extra liners for the compost bins.
4. **12/1/15** Julie Benda informs committee of what she learned at the Southern Oregon University’s panel on Bee Campus USA. Bee campus will require little changes to MCAD’s landscape or procedures, just written documentation and public access to information, as well as a facilities representative on board.
5. **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.

**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.