**Sustainability Environmental Action Committee**

**Meeting Agenda, November 29th 2016**

**Emeritus Room, 12:00-1:00pm**

**September 13th, 2016 - Meeting Minutes**

**(Present: Rosa Castillo, Bryan Johnson, Tom Milbrath, Brock Rasmussen, Greg Talmo, Steve Candy, Heather Peebles)**

1. **9/13/16** - Brock introduced key goals list for 2016/2017 that were approved at the April 2016 meeting. Heather read list of main goals to the committee and explained some in more detail, including status of Green Club and Bee Club as a concern. Brock emphasized the idea of focusing goals that are achievable and utilize existing resources on campus.

1. **9/13/16** – For the goal of creating a Sustainability Map for the campus, Tom inquired about the specifics of Macalester’s map, which we are using for reference. Brock talked about certain points and digitizing it for information. Via Greg’s suggestion, the committee reviewed Macalester’s map together on the TV. Steve talked about heading an initiative to update MCAD’s map to include information such as the new MFA building. This map can serve as a base map on which to place sustainability initiatives.
2. **9/13/16** - Brock discussed AASHE’s STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™) report as a future goal to assess where the college is, across all fields, for sustainability and as a starting point for improvements that should be made. Rosa is researching participation.
3. **9/13/16** - Heather, Brock, and Bryan briefed the committee on the status of the Hennepin County Grant, which funded the signage updates across campus on recycling and composting, and new bins across campus and in the dorms. The report was submitted to Hennepin County and the remainder of funds was awarded to the college as a result. This semester, composting was rolled out to all on campus apartments versus the opt in sign up process from the previous semester. Tom inquired about how composting was doing so far in the dorms. Heather talked about coordinating with Nate of Housing if our assistance was needed to update the composting brochure for the students living in the dorm. Bryan reassured Tom that is was doing well so far, and that there was no odor from the compost.
4. **9/13/16** - Heather briefed the committee on the Edible Forest Proposal that is being pursued by an undergraduate student for a site at MCAD and if implementation was possible. Brock highlighted concerns with the proposal such as the cycle of sustained student interest and maintenance. Greg suggested to pursue a way to set it up where it is more or less completely hands off and self-sustaining. The committee discussed investing in perennials and other methods to combat waning student interest as seen in the past with the student garden. Brock discussed maintenance concerns such as clean up, spraying, pruning, etc, which were reiterated by other committee members. There was also discussion of plants to avoid, such as raspberries, and to invest in more pest-resistant plants
5. **9/13/16** - In terms of the 2016/2017 highlighted goal to uplift sustainability initiatives across departments and leverage funds, Tom asked about specific methodology to evaluate the departments on sustainability. Heather discussed campus-wide surveys, the STARS program, and a longer timeline to build and obtain information. Brock raised concerns about introducing a survey that set goals the committee may not be able to achieve, and suggested to be cautious the message of a survey.
6. **9/13/16** - Heather introduced David’s inquiry to make signage for new napkin dispensers in the bistro. Brock and Heather discussed utilizing DesignWorks and reaching out the Naomi, an undergraduate who helped create last semester’s compost informational table tents, for the file.
7. **9/13/16** - Committee went through and discussed old business items to be deleted or updated from the previous meetings minutes.
8. **9/13/16** - Heather opened up the floor to discuss any sustainability concerns outside of the agenda items. Steve Candy wants to create more visibility for the college on sustainability by including initiatives and utilizing campus journalists to create articles for the main MCAD.edu site.
9. **9/13/16** - Brock informed the committee that the college has nearly 100% LED lights versus none outside in 2009.
10. **9/13/16** - Greg informed the committee that his department has turned their temperature dial up to save on energy.
11. **9/13/16** - Tom inquired about any current water conservation initiatives. Brock talked about the water filling station by the Library and its tracking of how many plastic bottles have been saved through use of the station. In order to install additional stations , funds are needed for this investment.
12. **9/13/16** – Heather will continue to facilitate interest from other schools wanting to connect in the Twin Cities, as time permits. **4/26/16** – Julie and Heather attended a two-day workshop to learn about student leadership in sustainability at Luther College’s Sustainability Leadership Institute. Both GA’s applied for this opportunity after a Green Corp member at Macalester emailed Heather about the event. Overall, it was a great opportunity to meet other students involved with sustainability in the Midwest and share ideas. Julie let the committee know that Macalester and other schools want to reach out and connect with schools in the Twin Cities area to bolster our sustainability efforts.
13. **9/13/16** – Brock informed the committee that there are still a handful of requirements that the college needs to meet for Tree Campus USA, which is on hold for now. Heather will follow up with Diana Eicher about the plant mapping of the campus. **4/26/16** – Julie updated the committee about the progress of Tree Campus USA requirements. Diana has been working with students on a campus map of the plants and trees. The application is not due until 12/31/16, but Julie mentioned working with Heather post-graduation if necessary. An Arbor Day Observance activity is required to qualify; however, it does not need to be on Arbor Day. Activity to be planned with possible participation from students at Hamline.
14. **9/13/16** – Heather informed the committee about the status of Green Club looking for a new president, so facilitation on behalf of student interests is on hold for now. The student garden was not planted this past Spring, and due to lack of maintenance, is now in a defunct state. **4/26/16** – Heather updated the committee on Green club student interest in expanding the garden. Per Pam’s inquiry on the status of the garden last school year, Julie ensured the committee that there was a full yield and good maintenance by students. Heather talked about student ideas for building a cart for the plants, possibly pushing plans back to Fall, and making a sign for more visibility and responsibility on part of the students. There are also plans to have a Green club led garden activity to get more students involved and informed on how they can help.
15. **9/13/16** – As time allows, Heather will continue the monthly round tables to create visibility about sustainability on campus. **4/26/16** – Heather briefly discussed some points from the Sustainability Round Tables held at the college center for visibility and to encourage student participation. Pam and Tom discussed department coordination and Fall survey to include not only students, but faculty and staff. Pam suggested connecting with Housing for further information about students and dorm sustainability.