

University Sustainability Committee
4-25-16 (9:30 AM to 10:30 AM)
President's Conference Room

In attendance:

Amy Hasson	Dave Gutoskey	Will Barron
Eric Berkheimer	Kevin Mann	Bill Nelson
Jeff Canada	Julia Howell	Wayne Shelton
Jeff Downes	Jacob (Kobi) Azoulay	

1. Introductions were provided; guest attendee was Jacob (Kobi) Azoulay, who will serve as the new VP of Sustainability starting in the fall. Kobi will also serve on the Green Fund committee along with his other SGA duties. Julia is President-elect of SGA. Congratulations to Julia and Kobi! Thank you to Julia for her service to the Green Fund and USC we wish you great success!
2. SGA update – Julia Howell

Earth Week Summary

- a. Monday – Recycle Madness (RSO competition) went smoothly with 8861 lbs of material recycled and was close to last year's results. A "recycled dog toy workshop" event was held using recycled t-shirts. Dog toys were donated to the local Humane Society to assist with the recently-rescued dogs.
- b. Tuesday – The Delmarva Discovery Center and Salisbury Zoological Park's "Zoo to You" program present live animal demonstrations in the Quad from 1-4 p.m. That evening, three student competitors will showcase their best dishes during an "Iron Sea Gull" cooking competition in the Commons. Judges include Food Network Holiday Baking Championship finalist Steve Konopelski. Local farmers donate vegetables for the dishes. The winning student's dish will be featured at the Commons at a later date. From 2:30-6 p.m., students shopping at the Camden Avenue Farmers Market at Asbury United Methodist Church, can show their Gull Cards for gift certificates to vendors.
- c. Wednesday - Solar cooking demonstrations and bicycle generator smoothies, along with ENVR senior project posters. That evening, environmental studies students present on how they, as one in 7.3 billion people around the world, reduced their environmental footprints for one month. The "One in 7.3 Billion Project Showcase" begins at 7 p.m. in the Nanticoke Room of the Guerrieri University Center.
- d. Thursday - Zipcar held a tabling event and a SU Motorpool hybrid car was displayed in Red Square along with gas mileage data on a poster. The SGA hosted a dirty sock contest to help promote the Zipcar service on campus from noon-4 p.m. Thursday, April 21, in Red Square. Each competing student will hold a clean white sock up to his or her car's exhaust for 30 seconds. Those with the cleanest and dirtiest sock will receive prizes.

- e. Friday - Native Species plant installation, supported by the Green Fund, next to the Link of Nations along with a “build your own terrarium” project in Red Square, which was well received.
 - f. Next semester, the campus will be going tray-less in the Commons. Dining will be purchasing lighter, break resistant tableware, instituting tray rack changes, silverware on tables and other changes to make the transition smooth. Students are working on an education campaign and will have an open forum for student to air opinions.
3. Solar Parking Canopy Projects Update
- a. Standard Solar is the project contractor
 - b. A contract is being developed which is a “Power Purchase Agreement”, meaning there are no up-front nor maintenance costs for the project. In this scenario, the university purchases power for 20 years and will own the project at the end of the term.
 - c. Danny Ervin was unable to attend but wanted to share his concerns regarding the campus engaging in a solar project. His concerns are noted below:
 - i. Currently, solar PV is the second most expensive method to generate electricity. The driving force behind this technology is the generous subsidies at the Federal and State levels. The cost of these subsidies are funded by taxpayers and ratepayers.
 - ii. Current Maryland policies, net metering specifically, subsidize current owners of solar panels at the expense of non-owners. Nevada addressed this issue by changing the price paid for electricity to solar panel owners to the avoided costs. This is something Maryland should consider.
 - iii. The current rate offered to net metering participants is the full energy rate. This means that this segment is not covering their share of distribution costs. The costs are spread across all customers usually based on electricity usage. The current policy unfairly allocates grid maintenance cost more heavily on the customers not participating in distributed generation programs.
4. Comprehensive Climate Agreement
- a. In January of 2016, President Dudley-Eshbach signed the Comprehensive Climate Agreement, which added a commitment to improve the resilience of the campus for future weather extremes which are expected to accompany global warming.
 - b. In the fall, the USC committee will become informed on resilience and will be tasked to identify a path forward toward becoming more climate resilient. A list of the steps in the Comprehensive Climate Agreement are outlined on a handout.
 - c. Online resources for the agreement: [http://secondnature.org/climate-guidance/the-commitments/#Resilience Commitment](http://secondnature.org/climate-guidance/the-commitments/#Resilience%20Commitment).
 - d. A comparison document from USM, Mark Beck was developed to outline the steps in transitioning to climate resilience, and is included with these minutes.
5. Student Intern in Sustainability Office

- a. This semester, Steven Rogers was a student intern shared between Sustainability office and U-ASC
 - b. The carbon footprint calculator which was formerly uses contained a significant amount of information which was not applicable to SU. The modified version is SU-centric, user friendly, very informative, and is able to be modified in the future to accommodate future technology. It is also setup to be useful to classes and includes conversion factors to make the output in useful units.
 - c. The new calculator will be shared with the committee at a future meeting, this fall.
6. Green Fund Update –
- a. FY 16 budget was \$43,000
 - b. FY17 \$128,000 (\$8 per full time student / semester)
 - c. Fund will top out at nearly \$192,000 in FY19
 - d. A summary of projects was provided in a handout.
 - e. One of the projects, a solar picnic bench, will arrive on campus Tuesday, 4/26/16. The equipment will be set up near Sammy the Sea Gull on the slate area of Henson. The equipment will be solar powered and will charge by USB and standard 110 volt plugin.
7. University Academic Sustainability Committee (U-ASC) update
- a. Originally, a series of seminars was planned but scheduling issues caused them to be delayed until next semester. U-ASC is working with Deb Matthews and the Office of Innovation to coordinate a faculty learning community this fall.
 - b. U-ASC is continuing to work on expanding web-based resources, radio spot program with DPR, and the development of a campus teaching and research sustainability survey.
8. Open discussion
- a. Kevin Mann discussed food waste digesters in the Commons.
 - 1. With the loss of composting services, the commons has a two year contract for food digesters which convert food waste into liquid which is disposed via the sanitary drain.
 - 2. Dining Services is taking measures to reduce food waste which will lead to further reductions of what is disposed. These measures include going tray-less and educating staff and customers.
 - b. Will B. asked about the impediments to hosting a bee hive on campus.
 - 1. Kevin shared some of the issues; risk of injury to students/staff, where to place the hive to avoid air vents, small campus where no space is far removed from access, signage to warn of presence of bees, etc.
 - 2. The discussion of these issues would require involvement of campus legal counsel and decisions at a higher level than the committee.