

Sustainability Committee Minutes

September 25, 2020

3 PM

Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Meeting called to order at 3 PM by Dr. David Chevalier.

Faculty present:

Dr. David Chevalier
Dr. John Cadle
Mrs. Ruth Underwood
Mr. David Steptoe
Mr. Desmal Purcell
Ms. Angela Stork
Mr. Victor Poole
Mr. Nick Kelch

Faculty not present:

Mrs. Mary Smith
Mrs. Karen Jones
Dr. Breana Simmons
Ms. Kendall Baker

Business

- After review, the members of the committee decided not to change the Committee Purpose and Functions.
- Chevalier read the list of the members of this committee.
- The minutes from the previous meeting – January 11, 2018 – were reviewed. Members of the committee decided not to vote of its approval since only few of the current members attended the previous meeting.
- Members of the committee discussed possible activities for this committee:
 - The EGSC green page was discussed:
 - ❖ Poole will update the URL and title of the page to include sustainability
 - ❖ The page will need to be updated with current initiatives related to sustainability effort of the college.
 - ❖ Cadle asked whether the page could include data on the impact of the sustainability efforts.
 - Underwood mentioned that the refillable cups for the students in the dorm was not successful. Only few students used the cups. In addition, the safety

measure to limit the spread of COVID-19 prevent the use of refillable cups in the cafeteria.

- Poole asked whether we should keep the recycling containers for plastic bottles since the local recycling facility closed and that the plastic bottles are discarded with the regular trash.
 - ❖ Steptoe mentioned the cost and labor to store and transport the plastic bottle to a different recycling facility.
 - ❖ Steptoe will check whether the recycling plant in Swainsboro will reopen.
 - ❖ Members of the committee will decide what to do with the recycling containers at the next meeting.
- Chevalier mentioned the community garden that was discussed during the last meeting.
 - ❖ Stork mentioned that no student showed an interest in a garden. She will send a survey to the residents of the dorms.
 - ❖ Purcell mentioned the herbs garden that Simmons and her students established a couple of years ago. It currently includes strawberries, lettuce, and bell peppers.
- Composting was discussed:
 - ❖ Chevalier mentioned that he has the materials to build a pallet compost bin. This bin will be used for plants and soil from the greenhouse and may be located behind the Academic Expansions building.
 - ❖ Another compost bin for the plant materials from the ground could be located towards the Nature Trail.
 - ❖ Composting of the food waste and vegetable scraps from the cafeteria was discussed. Underwood would need a compost bin close to the cafeteria.
- Poole mentioned the recycling of metals including soda cans and cans from the cafeteria:
 - ❖ Steptoe will contact the local metal recycling place to check which type of metal do they take.
- The lack of batteries recycling on campus was mentioned. The members of the committee should find how to recycle batteries.
- Chevalier mentioned that EGSC is both certified as a Bee Campus USA and a Tree Campus Higher Education.
- Kelch will check the sustainability initiatives taking place on the e campuses of Augusta University and Georgia Southern University
- The members of the committee decided to meet twice a semester – at the beginning and end of the semester. Chevalier will schedule a meeting the week before Thanksgiving.

Meeting was adjourned at 3.45 PM.