



**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR**

Student Sustainability Council Agenda
October 30, 2009
3 PM, Ruth Merrill Center

I. Attendance

- **Attending: Meg DeWitt, Alexis Ginsberg, Eric Weissmann, Liesel Schwartz, Rayna Oliker, Molly McDowell, Laney Widener, Jenn Miller, Scott Strenger**

II. Group Reports/Updates

- **Amy Kadrie**- No report; not attending due to E-Waste event
- **Jenn Miller**- Engineers for a Sustainable World president
 - Meg and Jenn have been discussing and researching LED lights, and are planning on making different versions of lights as trials. Once they find the right kind, they need help mass-producing them to work with the ACDC power in the outdoor lights. They also want to look into a revolving loan to work with conservation and efficiency technology. The money that we would save on electricity would go back towards paying back the loan to begin a revolving loan fund for the University. Jenn has also been talking about other projects, such as Ahead Energy to install rainwater harvesting systems at schools in Uganda and working in the biodiesel lab to power it in sustainable ways, like wind or solar water heating.
- **Liesel Schwartz**- University Council on Sustainability Student Representative/Grassroots Co-President
 - Liesel has been working with the Council with the 25 tasks, 14 of these have progressed and had major progress. We have grants for building and have been working with facilities to become more sustainable. A project that is being re-implemented is purchasing practices to become more sustainable. She also talked about our grade on the Green Report Card, Dining continued to do well. She discussed the potential flaws that might skew the grading system that they work. She also focused on how this should push us to do more and still recognize how far we have come. The specifics of the grading system and both the positive and negative potential consequences of the grade were also discussed.
- **Laney Widener**-Co-President of Grassroots
 - Laney talked about UR Unplugged and the aspects of the specific event. They are also working with Recycle with America with Amy Kadrie to plan and operate that event. There is also a speaker next Tuesday on Gender Equality and Organic Farming as part of the lecture series Women

in Sustainability. They are also planning on coordinating a film showing of two short documentaries, *King Corn* and *Big River*, on Wednesday, November 11th with Dining and have a panel to discuss different issues. Possible clean-up with outside environmental group CEI in Highland Park and a social event to the Long Seasons Farmer's Market that starts on November 10th are in the works, and planning for RecycleMania in the spring has already began.

- **Rayna Oliker-** EcoReps Coordinator/Dining Sustainability Team
 - EcoReps has started to have weekly meetings to assist the freshmen in their task of hosting two hall events a semester. She is looking to improve the communication between RAs and D'Lions and the EcoReps to avoid planning events at the same time. Local Foods Week is coming up, which includes 5 dinners. Green Team is planning a Reusable Mugs campaign to advertise the program and help clear up the specifics of the program.
- **Megan DeWitt-** SA Sustainability Coordinator
 - Green Your... Campaign- She has been working on a "Green your Group" campaign to help groups on campus become more sustainable.
 - Green Your Events checklist- She wants it to be done soon so she can send it out to all the groups so they can implement it in their offices, meetings, etc.
 - Greeks Go Green- Molly is interested in working with the Greek community and wants to work with sustainability within Greek life and work on becoming greener when throwing parties and conserve energy when living on sorority floors. We also want to start sustainability chair positions. Meg also wants to plan a day where members of Greek life will all wear green on the same day to promote awareness.
 - Mini Walk for Dark- She doesn't need volunteers for this event this year because it will be toned down as opposed to last year's event. Eric brought up that Student Government has been trying to go green from the bottom up and help individual students that are interested in sustainability to increase their influence on campus. He also asked if there is an E for E "green" requirement and that maybe that could help chapters go green. He discussed that the SA is willing to give small monetary bonuses for groups that work on sustainability.

III. Open Forum

- There is a group that is building a solar powered boat called Solar Splash. Meg asked about any potential interest in getting involved.
- Scott brought up the pollutants in the Genesee and asked about any potential possibilities of cleaning it either this year or in future years. There was open

discussion about the fish species and plants that could possibly be introduced into the ecosystem. He also addressed the fact that drunk students are increasingly littering and that maybe a PR campaign to decrease this from happening. We talked about more recycling containers and possibly flyer campaigns. We decided to look into recycling on the frat quad, possibly putting them outside the frats and create incentives to recycle, as well as the possible problems in implementing this program on campus.

- Solo cups and their environmental impact were also discussed. We talked about alternatives and recycling problems, as well as contacting Solo to change their use of plastic to increase their recycling capabilities. Starbucks cups are also a recycling problem on campus and we want to work on improving their environmental impact.
- Liesel talked briefly about Blue + Yellow group. It is a new student oriented group and resource where students meet and talk about sustainability in academics. There is a Google group and a email chain to network and maintain an open forum to discuss new ideas, research opportunities, plans for the future and incorporating sustainability into those plans, and what others are doing.

IV. Scott asked about the email to faculty from students suggesting sustainable practices to implement into their classrooms, like saving paper etc.

V. Closing- Set meeting times for the rest of semester

VI. The November/December meeting will be on December 4th at 3, location TBD.