Committee on the Campus Environment Meeting Minutes

September 17th, 2019

Student Union Rm. 362A

Attendance: Cassie Austin, Moira Bindner, Brian Blackmon, Heather Brinton, Nicole Bryant, Leah Fontaine, Mark Hairr, Emma Heins, Melissa Hinten, Preston Jacobsen, Jillian Lentz, Joanne Logan, Leah McCord, Mike McKinney, John Nolt, Bill Park, Mary Leslie Patterson, Jay Price, Annalisa Tarizzo

Upcoming Events:

September 20: Global Climate Strike, tabling 10-12 HSS Amphitheater, strike starts at 12p

September 21, 11a-3p: Electric Car Ride and Drive at SEEED Knox (1617 Dandridge Avenue)

September 27, 3:30p: Climate gathering in Market Square

September 28-29: Appalachian Public Interest Law Conference at UT Law School

September 28, 9a-6p: Go Green Home Summit at the Clayton Center for the Arts (502 E Lamar Alexander Parkway, Maryville)

October 2: Tennessee Sustainable Transportation Forum and Expo at the UT Conference Center

October 21-25: Biketober Fest, be on the lookout for more updates from Heather Brinton!

October 22: Sustainability Day Symposium, 11a-3p; Town Hall, 6p in Strong Hall

November 8, 8:30a-11a: Keep Knoxville Beautiful Sustainability Summit at the City of Knoxville Public Works Complex

Miscellaneous Updates:

- The executive committee will be meeting with Sr. Vice Chancellor Chris Cimino on September 24th to revisit the Zero Waste Commitment.
- New SGA appointments: Maryn Miles will be serving as the Environment and Sustainability Director and Trystan Bordeau will be serving as the co-director
- The City is currently accepting applicants for involvement in the post-mayoral election sustainability planning sessions. Contact Brian Blackmon for more information.
- Behavior-Centered Design Challenge/Be.Hive on Campus: Climate Change Needs Behavior Change – October 4th and 5th at Dickenson College. Friday there will be a competition with teams of 4-5 students. The theme this year is changing behavior to adopt plant-based diets. Saturday there will be a conference based around the same topic. Mike McKinney will be reaching out to Vols for Veggies to see if they would like to pull a team together for this.

- New student representatives for the Student Environmental Initiatives (Green Fee) Committee have been chosen: Maryn Miles, Simon Jolly, Meredith Debow.

Sustainability Symposium:

- October 22nd in Strong Hall
- 11a-3p – Tabling, student poster displays, and group presentations/focus groups.
- 6p – Sustainability Town Hall co-hosted with Sunrise Knoxville and the local Sierra Club Chapter. 3-5 speakers will be presenting for ~8 minutes each on topics on what climate change and the Green New Deal mean on the national, local, and campus levels, moderated by a student representative. An audience Q&A session will follow.

Aramark Updates:

- Met with Vols for Veggies and they are planning to table inside the dining halls. Others from the CCE are welcome to table as well!
- All vegetables in the dining halls will now be prepared vegan.
- Aramark Corporate is pushing "Plant Forward" recipes to expand vegan/vegetarian options
- Aramark is also considering re-visiting a re-suable to-go container at Southern Kitchen

Office of Sustainability Updates:

- 14 interns have been selected for the program and began this past weekend. Some of their projects include a re-usable to-go container pilot in Sorority Village and dorm composting pilot program in Vol Hall.
- The POWER Challenge starts October 1. If you have a social media and are interested in promoting it to a student audience, contact Leah Fontaine (lfontain@utk.edu) for promotional materials!

Gameday Cleanup:

- Stadium cleaning has been going fairly well. More separation happening than before with new contract requiring the separation of recyclables.

Climate Action Plan:

- Beginning updates in the coming weeks and hope to have a rough outline by the Sustainability Day Symposium so we can give an update to attendees on what has been accomplished in the last 10 years and what we hope to achieve going forward.
- Will bring progress to the October CCE meeting for feedback, possibly some workshopping
- Have decided no longer to pay for Second Nature membership, hard to justify the $5000 fee. Will be completing the update independently.