

Environmental Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes – March 20th 2018

Members Present:

Garen Baghdasarian*
Susan Fila
Ferris Kawar
Christyanne Melendez
Poliana Raymer

Members Excused:

Michelle King
Alexa Hernandez – Student Representative

1. Call to Order:
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 12:55pm.
2. Public Comments:
 - a. Susan announced that there would be a Health Wellness Fair on March 27th and requested Ferris' participation on the topic of transportation (biking).
3. Approval of minutes:
 - a. Ferris moved to approve minutes. Susan second the approval.
4. CEUS Updates
 - a. Sustainability Technology Certificate Programs:
 - i. There has been a need to increase enrollment, especially for PV and EE Certificate Programs. Some of the planned approaches include a) creating tailored classes for employees; b) offering hybrid classes; c) finding space on the main campus for these classes (such as the case for Recycling and Resource Management, which has high enrollment); d) improving relationship with industry. Susan suggested working with high schools, specifically Santa Monica High School, where an SMC counselor is based at. High school students are technology-driven but many have questioned the need of a bachelor's degree for their career path.
 - ii. Recycling and Resource Management has been chosen as one of the 12 pilot programs for Guided Pathways.
5. Carbon Commitment (ACUPCC) and SMC
 - a. Committee preferred to continue pursuing Dr. Jeffery's signature for the WASI coalition (or, at least, a reply to the request). Ferris recommended contacting the president's assistant, Leticia (Letty) Kilian, to understand if there was any apprehension on the president's part or if she simply did not have the chance to consider the request. Garen proposed (via e-mail) shortening the commitment's time frame to reach carbon neutrality. The committee agreed to an unofficial change in time frame, but preferred to keep the official goal (2050) as is.

- b. Chrystianne inquired if SMC is on a higher education “green list”, but after a quick online research, only 4-year colleges were mentioned. There was a debate as to whether SMC students in general are interested in sustainability. Ferris responded by saying that a survey would need to be done, since that information is currently unknown. Chrystianne mentioned a “green pride” at the University of Vermont when she was an undergraduate. The committee realized that many of the actions taken at UV then are currently taken at SMC (e.g. green festivals, waste separation) but students seem to be unaware of sustainability at SMC (essays from first-year students show that their choice to come to SMC is related to its reputation in transferability, never its sustainability efforts). This became a topic of conversation given that SMC is one of the few community colleges in the state pursuing carbon neutrality, zero waste, among other things. One idea to increase students’ awareness of sustainability on campus was to train CEUS students to tour the campus with Counseling 12 and Counseling 20 students. Ferris mentioned that a 16-minute video has been recently produced and is meant to be shown in Counseling 20, but the idea of a tour was considered.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.