

6/12/17

Sustainability Council – Seattle Central College

Year-End Report

2016-2017 academic year

Accomplishments, Projects, Activities:

Receiving Formal Recognition and Finalizing Bylaws

The Seattle Central Sustainability Council received formal recognition as a Council by the President's Cabinet in May of 2016 and was appointed an executive sponsor, the Vice President of Administration. Over the 2015-2016 academic year, the Sustainability Council worked to transform the draft bylaws into a meaningful document that illustrated the charge, function and duties of the Seattle Central Sustainability Council. On November 7, 2016 Julia Buchans and Leila Blair, the 2016-2017 co-chairs of the Council, signed and finalized the bylaws.

Participation in Washington Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WAHESC)

The Seattle Central Sustainability Council sponsored a group of six students to attend the annual Washington Higher Education Sustainability Coalition conference in February 2017 at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. The Central group was part of a larger district-wide coalition of faculty, staff and students attending with members from North, South and the district. The WAHESC conference provided opportunities for those within higher education in the region to come together and learn about sustainability in academics, operations and research. Seattle Central student Masra Clamoungou noted "WAHESC gave us an opportunity to learn from students on other campuses, to develop and hone our ideas related to campus sustainability, and have a good time throughout."

Improving Waste Management on Campus

Much of this past academic year the Council has focused on the continuing need to improve our waste streams on campus, including standardizing bins, increasing signage, partnering with Food Services, Custodial Services and Engineering, and coordinating waste trainings.

Standardizing Bins & Increasing Signage:

The Council devoted a number of work parties to standardizing bins throughout the BE and SAM buildings, ensuring that garbage, recycling and compost bins were available in highly trafficked areas, that lid colors corresponded to the appropriate bins, and that bins were in a consistent order. We also worked with Custodial Services, Engineering and on our own to put up consistent signage for recycling, compost and trash, including laminated posters and bin stickers.

Atrium Signage & Waste Bins:

One large project we completed was to create Atrium signage with actual waste samples, so that people have visual reminders of compostable, recyclable or garbage materials. We also worked with Custodial Services to ensure that each waste station had a compost, recycling and waste bin.

Waste Training:

We invited Pat Kauffman of Seattle Public Utilities back to campus this year for a formal waste training in March 2017. In attendance were members of the Council as well as most staff from the Custodial Services Team. This was a great opportunity for a refresher (or first time training)

of proper waste disposal procedures as well as establishing better connections and commonality among the Council and custodial staff. Through this training, the Council was able to recruit two custodial staff members and considered partnering with other constituent groups on campus to make a broader, deeper impact.

Earth Week

The Council planned, promoted and executed a week's worth of events for the campus community:

MON:

- “Do the Math” film showing, in BE 4106
- One Center City – open community forum, in Erickson Theater

TUES:

- Presentation “Boundaries of Agriculture, Environmental Sustainability, and African Diasporic Culture” by Stephanie Cholmondeley, in BE 4106

WED:

- “Using nature to go deeper with Earth Day” - A mindfulness-based workshop to connect with self & the planet by Melissa Gant, in MAC 210

THURS:

- Instagram Photo Contest – #SCCEarthWeek2017
- COSI: “Shut it Down” - a conversation with climate activists who closed safety valves on 5 crude oil pipelines, in Library Room A

FRI:

- Earth Day Fair – with community partners, in the Atrium area
- Bike Commuting 101 – a hands-on workshop on bike commuting & safety, in the Atrium

Partnerships

- Sustainability Food Systems club “SAgE” – took students to WAHESC, partnered on Earth Week activities
- Custodial Services – met with Billi Basha to standardize bins and signage across campus, collaborated on waste training, recruited two custodial staff to the Sustainability Council
- Food Services – met with Denise Pierce to standardize to-go containers, completed Atrium signage project, and secured compost bin for the Buzz coffee stand
- Auxiliary Services – partnered with Jeff Keever on Earth Week events, promotion
- Engineering – partnered with Miles Kelly to get signage posted across campus
- Faculty – partnered with Katie Chenu on Earth Week events