SSN General Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2015
12:00-12:50pm
SERF 232
Attendance approximately 19
Submitted by Kim Kane (Secretary)

News & Announcements (5 mins)
- SSN EB elections coming up
  - Start thinking now about running for office
  - Positions include Communications, Member at Large, Membership, Recording Secretary, Treasurer and Events Officer
  - Further discussion at April’s general meeting
- Staff Picnic greening
  - The Staff Association has reached out to SSN to provide leadership for greening the Staff Picnic.
  - Alonso who has recently retired, he did this in the past so some systems are already in place.
  - Members who are interested in helping include Iris, Travis, Yvonne and Brian.
- Updates from SSN Executive Board
  - Mark – Fundraising Plan – The Executive Board is reviewing the fundraising plan, once approved it will be sent to the listserv
  - Volunteers needed to help implement plan – Sara, Travis and Kalyn expressed interest in helping.
    - Including outreach to the community to find green business who want to donate
    - Crowd funding ie: Go Fund Me or similar site develop page to use for staff projects, maybe create a video to include on site.
- Sara reported she will be creating a sustainability newsletter
  - Goal of the newsletter is to provide information about what is happening on campus with sustainability, research, student projects and other information.
  - Profile people on campus
  - People can also submit stories about sustainability

Staff Project Update (5 mins)
The SSN awarded their first grant of $630.00 to The Seed Project, the team included Chris Johnson, Mike Scarry, and Andre Leon. The Seed Project will begin seed planting for trees, mostly natives, to be used on campus to replace dying trees and to add additional trees. The project eliminates the need to purchase saplings from outside vendors, thus saving the University money. Native trees also use less water and are low maintenance. The group will be invited to give updates on the project at SSN meetings thought out the year. On behalf of the group Andre thanked the members for their support.

Waste Working Group Update (15 mins)
Zero Waste Working Group – Iris presented on Zero Waste and what projects the campus is working on. Including, currently the dining halls are composting. Some types of Styrofoam can now be recycled, at this point not packing peanuts. There is discussion on a plan to recycle film plastic example is shrink wrap. Lawn clippings are being used on the grounds around campus, and recycled water is being used for landscaping with a goal to increase it to 90% in the future. Online there is a document on how to host a Zero Waste event.

Discussion followed presentation: Recently, SSN member Travis recently hosted an event with an online agenda, minimal paper and no swag! So it can be done. Travis suggested that maybe SSN members could be consultants to the campus on how to green events. And events could get “SSN approval” if they meet certain requirements. Sara would be willing to work with SSN members on this idea.

The triathlon club currently hosts Zero Waste events.

How to encourage moving away from one-time use items, some places encourage staff bringing coffee mugs and using reusable utensils and plates.

There is still plenty of work to do. If you want to work towards creating a zero waste campus contact Iris imagid@mail.ucsd.edu

At a previous meeting a list of the working groups was circulated among SSN members, so people could volunteer for areas that interested them. Sasha has the list. The list will be brought to upcoming meetings so people can sign up.

SSN advocacy consensus process (10 mins)

If one of the working groups want to write a letter and asks the SSN to sign in support, how do we want to handle the process? Ideas discussed, Post document on website, have a comment period, and create a mechanism to vote online.

Earth Week Planning (10 mins)
Kimberly O’Connell is the contact. Wednesday April 22, 2015 11-1:00 Price Center in front of the SRC
SSN will have two tables, Chris will sell plants. We will have a recycled or not game. And a “How Green Are You?” photo opportunity. Photos will be posted on SSN website.

Life Sciences Sustainability Event recap (5 mins)

Gayle reported that they invited key suppliers to the event. Only vendors who could justify the sustainability of their products were selected. Suppliers and internal partners were encouraged to minimize handouts or use at least 30% PCW. Quality conversations were had about sustainable products. Approximately 100 researchers and lab assistants attended. At the SSN table, they had a “How Green Are You?” photo opportunity and people wrote in their answers. One lucky winner received a membership to the SSN for one year and $10 gift card.