Student Sustainability Council
Meeting Minutes
[10/20/2024]

Taken by: Leila Dawson

1) **Beginning of Meeting**

   a) [4:00pm] - Reading of the Preamble and Introductions

2) **Proposal Presentations** [4:06pm]

a) [4:06pm] - Presentation Begins "Sustainability Summer Research Fellowship program"

- Began in 2013, supports sustainability research at the University of Kentucky
- Competitive summer stipend of $5000 that awards six fellowships, one from the SSC and one from the OUR
- Includes social events to help students connect with others to build community, students must complete 200 hours of mentored research between May 1 - August 1, 2025
- Total ask: $25,000

b) [4:18pm] - "Sustainability Summer Research Fellowship program" Presentation Ends and Q&A Begins

- Will you explain who is a part of the review committee and how applications will be reviewed to make sure they align with the 3 pillars of sustainability? The Office of Undergraduate Research will facilitate the program and make sure that the proposals align with the United Nation's SDGs. Proposals will then be given to the SSC for further review.
- Would you ever support additional fellows if we increased funding? Yes, we have previously awarded 5-6 participants.
- How competitive is the application process? Last year we received 23 applicants and only awarded 5.
- Is the increase in funding overtime to keep up with the demand? We have always awarded the same amount; students are becoming more aware of how their research relates to sustainability.
- How many staff from the office undergraduate research support this program? Two, Chad Risko focuses on promotion, campus outreach, and social media graphics. Then Jessica Jones-Bowman helps with oversight and program facilitation.

– Would you tell us how much time you spend on the sustainability fellowship? About 100 hours. This includes processing payment and agreement forms, developing social media outreach, and communication of fellowship requirements.

c) [4:23pm] - "Sustainability Summer Research Fellowship program" Q&A Ends

a) [4:24pm] - Presentation Begins "Pay Equity for Student Interns"

– Began in 2015 and has hired 90 interns total. Immersive nonacademic opportunity, experience in the implementation of sustainable initiatives by partnering with units on campus
– 11 interns this year, intent to double the size of the program within 2 years
– Since 2016 the payment rate has been $12 for returning interns and $11 for first timers
– Want to increase rate to $15.55 per hour
– Total ask 4467.525

b) [4:30pm] - "Pay Equity for Student Interns" Presentation Ends and Q&A Begins

– Will we expect to see a proposal for next year at the $15.55 rate? Yes, however this is voted on we will come for next year with this same rate.
– Would you like to double the program size with 2 interns per office? We would like to add more partners, but it is up to the units if they need 1 or 2.
– Do you think that increasing the wages is going to make it more difficult to bring in interns for other campus jobs? I do not see this increase as a barrier to programmatic participation.
– Is it about an $800 raise total? No, a $3600 to $5200 increase.
– Is this a pay raise for current interns or next year, and will they receive an instant raise? This pay raise is for current interns and assuming we can work with the units to increase the pay rates, they will receive an instant raise.

c) [4:33pm] - "Pay Equity for Student Interns" Q&A Ends

a) [4:35pm] – Discussion of "Sustainability Summer Research Fellowship program" Proposal Begins

i) Great opportunity for students looking to engage in research.
ii) The proposal includes well overmatching funds.
iii) Jesi does a phenomenal job communicating expectations and the program is run diligently.
iv) The SSC should be funding projects like the Sustainability Summer Research Fellowship program, as it gives the money back to students who are completing quality work.

b) [4:40pm] – Discussion of "Sustainability Summer Research Fellowship program" Proposal Ends

[4:40pm] - Motion to vote (Alycie)(Kyle)

VOTE RESULTS – <mark>PASSED</mark>/NOT PASSED Yes [16] No [0] Abstain [0]

a) [4:40pm] – Discussion of "Pay Equity for Student Interns" Proposal Begins

i) Students will benefit greatly from a price increase, a research symposium, networking events, resume and cover letter reviews, and learning about all aspects of campus sustainability.

b) [4:45] – Discussion of "Pay Equity for Student Interns" Proposal Ends

[4:45pm] - Motion to vote (Kyle)(Alycie)

VOTE RESULTS – <mark>PASSED</mark>/NOT PASSED Yes [16] No [0] Abstain [0]

4) Announcements [4:40pm]

a) Creating a draft proposal for the next meeting to increase the environmental stewardship fee from $4 to $5, about 55k per dollar of fee.

b) Discussed tabling for UK Sustainability Showcase for engagement credits.

PROPOSAL #1 VOTING RECORD, "Sustainability Summer Research Fellowship"

Name	Y/N/A	Name	Y/N/A
Shaun Lavin	Y	Mallory Sparks	Y
Leila Dawson	Y	Kaylee Bliss	Y
Alycie Caya	Y	Finley Haight	Y
Kauner Shacklette	Y	Phoebe Brown	Y
Sophia McKay	Y	Samantha Dukes	Y

Kyle Heffernan	Y	Brandon Bolf	Y
Morgan Knutsen	Y	Sophia Hahn	Y
Finley Haight	Y	Ella Bratcher	Y

    a) Amount requested: [$25,000]

    b) <mark>**Amount approved: [$25,000]**</mark>

PROPOSAL #1 VOTING RECORD, "Pay Equity for Student Interns"

Name	Y/N/A	Name	Y/N/A
Shaun Lavin	Y	Mallory Sparks	Y
Leila Dawson	Y	Kaylee Bliss	Y
Alycie Caya	Y	Finley Haight	Y
Kauner Shacklette	Y	Phoebe Brown	Y
Sophia McKay	Y	Samantha Dukes	Y
Kyle Heffernan	Y	Brandon Bolf	Y
Morgan Knutsen	Y	Sophia Hahn	Y
Finley Haight	Y	Ella Bratcher	Y

    c) Amount requested: [$4467.525]

    d) **Amount approved: [$4467.525]**

ATTENDANCE

Name	P/A	Name	P/A
Shaun Lavin	P	Sophia Cahill	P

Ella Bratcher	P	Sophia Hahn	P
Darren Tosh	A	Finley Haight	P
Parker Schimpff	A	Phoebe Brown	P
Leila Dawson	P	Ari Almeida	A
Sam Dukes	P	Sophia McKay	P
Brandon Bolf	P	Kaylee Bliss	P
Alycie Caya	P	Eli Ortt	A
Kauner Shacklette	P	Samantha Gentry	P
Mallory Sparks	P	Caity Weaver	A
Mary Hanna	A	Kayla Payne	A
Kyle Heffernan	P	Morgan Knutsen	P