Student Sustainability Council

Meeting Minutes

[3/31/2025]

**Taken by:** Leila Dawson

1. **Beginning of Meeting**
2. [4:00pm] - Reading of the Preamble and Introductions
3. **Proposal Presentations** [4:09pm]

a) [4:09pm] - Presentation Begins “Campus Trees as Urban Forest”

* Updating and analyzing campus tree inventory through online platform
* Current dataset is not updated regularly and contains misidentified trees
* Recruiting/hiring two undergraduate research interns (400hrs at $15 an hour)
* Total ask: $14,467.00

b) [4:25pm] - Presentation Begins “Bluegrass Greensource 2025 Sustainability Summit”

* Partnership with BGGS for the annual sustainability summit: goal to improve participant turnout
* Topics: “innovative ways to improve community recycling” and “cultivating hope for Kentucky’s future”
* Opportunities for UK students to learn more about their environment and how they can sustain it
* Total ask: $3,500.00

c) [4:25pm] - Presentation Begins “Sustainability Challenge Grant Partnership – Year 11”

* Purpose of the program is to engage multidisciplinary teams from the University community in the creation and implementation of ideas that will promote sustainability by simultaneously advancing economic vitality, ecological integrity, and social equity.
* Total ask: $33,333.00

d) [4:47pm] - Presentation Begins “SSC Director Stipends 25-26”

* Requesting an increase in the amount awarded to SSC directors
* Total ask: $3,200.00

1. **Q&A Session** [4:19pm]
2. [4:19pm] – “Campus Trees as Urban Forest” Q&A Begins

* You mentioned the work hours would be divided between two interns for 400 hours of work, wouldn’t this be 800 hours?
  + No, the interns will both be working towards the 400 hours, but the work entails checking species ID, measuring tree height, and measuring dbh. This work is tedious and requires a large amount of dedicated time.
* I have previously done work with Nic Williamson regarding the campus tree inventory system, where I identified and measured trees surrounding the student center. Would you be reidentifying trees that have been used in previous projects?
  + No, our work will focus on missing trees and trees that are currently misidentified.

Motion to extend discussion by 2 mins (Shaun, Kauner 2nd)

* For the trees you do not finish identifying this summer will you continue next summer?
  + Yes, we have plans to continue working to establish a similar rolling system to create a campus forest inventory system that is updated every 3-5 years.

Motion to extend discussion by 2 mins (Shaun, Kauner 2nd)

* Is the data analysis the part of the project that the CO-PI is involved in?
  + Yes, our research analyst (Nic Williamson) will only focus on the data we collect. They will also supervise students and help with updating the inventory if the help is needed.

[4:30pm] – “Bluegrass Greensource 2025 Sustainability Summit” Q&A Begins

* How did you arrive at the number of 100 students?
  + I was unable to get records from BGGS due to privacy issues, however, the last summit there were about 130 student attendees.
* Would you be willing to do collaborative social media posts with the SSC?
  + Yes
* How long is the summit and what topics will you be discussing?
  + The summit is a full day event. The topics that will be discussed include “cultivating hope for Kentucky’s future” and “innovative ways to improve community recycling.” There will also be a speed networking session.
* How will you decide who gets to attend the summit?
  + It will be decided on a first come first serve basis.
* What are you planning to do if no one shows up?
  + I am assuming that we will still hold the summit. I will reach out to the coordinators (Amy Sohner and Rachel Skinner).
* Do students need to pre-register?
  + We would like people to pre-register, however, in the past we have had students show up without registering and have been able to cater to their needs.
* Was the fee the same last year as this year?
  + Yes
* Will there be a bulk discount?
  + Amy and Rachel did not mention a bulk discount, but I am open to suggesting it.

[4:42pm] – “Sustainability Challenge Grant Partnership – Year 11” Q&A Begins

* What are the chances that one of your partners says that they will not be funding the grant?
  + Really low. They have never decided not to fund the grant.
* What are examples of types of projects that you’ve done through the sustainability challenge grant?
  + Some examples include “Art Walk in a Prairie Grassland,” “Moving Polymer Clay Towards a Greener Art Material,” “Sustainable Color for Kentucky’s Future,” “Next Steps in Campus Wood Utilization,” and “Can Urban Reforestation Contribute to Climate Mitigation.”
* How much money did you give away last year compared to this year?
  + We awarded $200,000, but we kept $25,000 to allocate towards projects if they request additional financial need.
* How much do you have left from the amount you kept?
  + We still have about $18,000-$20,000. The money we are requesting will be allocated to new proposals.
* Did you say that the other 3 funding partners have help fund since the beginning?
  + The first year the provost did not help fund. For the past four years, the four partners have been participating.

[4:48pm] – “SSC Director Stipends 25-26” Q&A Begins

* Is $3,200 the total of what the directors will get this year?
  + Yes
* Is this double what it was?
  + No

1. **Discussion** [4:50pm]
2. [4:50pm] – Discussion of “Campus Trees as Urban Forest” Begins
3. The council believes that with the abundance of construction projects happening on campus, now is not the best time to do a campus-wide tree survey. The results will likely change after construction is complete.
4. The cost of the project is too expensive, currently, for the potential gain. The council would like more information on how the project will benefit students, the role of UK Grounds, and whether two students have the potential to undertake such an arduous task.

[5:02pm] - Motion to extend discussion by 3 mins (Kauner, Shaun 2nd)

[5:05pm] – Motion to vote Sophia, Mallory 2nd

**VOTE RESULTS** – PASSED/NOT PASSED Yes [0] No [11] Abstain [0]

1. [4:50pm] – Discussion of “Bluegrass Greensource 2025 Sustainability Summit” Begins
2. The council discussed how the event takes place in the middle of the day a week before final exams, so there are concerns about funding the full amount for 100 students.
3. Council suggested starting out with partial funding and then awarding additional funding based on the number of student interest.

[5:15pm] - Motion to amend to fund 30 students at the amount of $1,050.00

[5:15pm] - Motion to extend discussion by 3 mins (Shaun, Kauner 2nd)

[5:16pm] - Motion to vote on amendment (Shaun, Kaylee 2nd)

[5:16pm] - Motion to vote (Alycie, Mallory 2nd)

**VOTE RESULTS** – PASSED/NOT PASSED Yes [11] No [0] Abstain [0]

1. [5:16pm] – Discussion of “Sustainability Challenge Grant Partnership – Year 11” Begins
2. The council admires how the grant prioritizes diversity of projects, as well as student-teacher led projects.
3. The council has repeatedly funded this project, which helps various programs undergo research at UK.

[5:19pm] - Motion to vote (Kauner, Alycie 2nd)

**VOTE RESULTS** – PASSED/NOT PASSED Yes [11] No [0] Abstain [0]

1. [5:19pm] – Discussion of “SSC Director Stipends 25-26” Begins
2. The council believes a stipend increase is representative of student’s work.

[5:21pm] - Motion to vote (Sophia, Kauner 2nd)

**VOTE RESULTS** – PASSED/NOT PASSED Yes [11] No [0] Abstain [0]

**ANNOUCEMENTS:**

* Director Nominations

**PROPOSAL #1 VOTING RECORD, “**Campus Trees as Urban Forest**”**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Y/N/A** | **Name** | **Y/N/A** |
| Shaun Lavin | N | Darren Tosh | N |
| Leila Dawson | N | Mallory Sparks | N |
| Alycie Caya | N | Phoebe Brown | N |
| Samantha Dukes | N | Mae Hanna | N |
| Kauner Shacklette | N | Sophia Hahn | N |
| Kaylee Bliss | N |  |  |

* + 1. Amount requested: [$14,467.00]
    2. Amount approved: [$0]

**PROPOSAL #2 VOTING RECORD, “**Bluegrass Greensource 2025 Sustainability Summit**”**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Y/N/A** | **Name** | **Y/N/A** |
| Shaun Lavin | Y | Darren Tosh | Y |
| Leila Dawson | Y | Mallory Sparks | Y |
| Alycie Caya | Y | Phoebe Brown | Y |
| Samantha Dukes | Y | Mae Hanna | Y |
| Kauner Shacklette | Y | Sophia Hahn | Y |
| Kaylee Bliss | Y |  |  |

1. Amount requested: [$3,500.00]
2. Amount approved: [$1,050.00]

**PROPOSAL #3 VOTING RECORD, “**Sustainability Challenge Grant Partnership – Year 11**”**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Y/N/A** | **Name** | **Y/N/A** |
| Shaun Lavin | Y | Darren Tosh | Y |
| Leila Dawson | Y | Mallory Sparks | Y |
| Alycie Caya | Y | Phoebe Brown | Y |
| Samantha Dukes | Y | Mae Hanna | Y |
| Kauner Shacklette | Y | Sophia Hahn | Y |
| Kaylee Bliss | Y |  |  |

1. Amount requested: [$33,333.00]
2. Amount approved: [$16,667.00]

**PROPOSAL #4 VOTING RECORD, “**SSC Director Stipends 25-26**”**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Y/N/A** | **Name** | **Y/N/A** |
| Shaun Lavin | Y | Darren Tosh | Y |
| Leila Dawson | Y | Mallory Sparks | Y |
| Alycie Caya | Y | Phoebe Brown | Y |
| Samantha Dukes | Y | Mae Hanna | Y |
| Kauner Shacklette | Y | Sophia Hahn | Y |
| Kaylee Bliss | Y |  |  |

1. Amount requested: [$3,200.00]
2. Amount approved: [$3,200.00]

**ATTENDANCE**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **P/A** | **Name** | **P/A** |
| Shaun Lavin | P | Sophia Cahill | A |
| Ella Bratcher | A | Sophia Hahn | P |
| Leila Dawson | P | Ari Almeida | A |
| Sam Dukes | P | Sophia McKay | A |
| Alycie Caya | P | Kaylee Bliss | P |
| Kauner Shacklette | P | Samantha Gentry | A |
| Mallory Sparks | P | Caity Weaver | A |
| Mae Hanna | P | Kayla Payne | A |
| Kyle Heffernan | A | Morgan Knutsen | A |
| Darren Tosh | P | Finley Haight | A |
| Phoebe Brown | P | Isabel Badrawy | A |