Student Sustainability Council

Meeting Minutes

[4/13/2025]

**Taken by:** Leila Dawson

1. **Beginning of Meeting**
2. [4:00pm] - Reading of the Preamble and Introductions
3. [4:07pm] - Bee-keeping Club Presentation
4. **Proposal Presentations** [4:12pm]

a) [4:12pm] - Presentation Begins “Planting flowering shrubs underneath pest infested urban trees to manage pests and improve tree health”

* Hire a full-time undergraduate research assistant to help with this project over the summer
* Supplies for the molecular work
* Replacement Shrubs
* Commercially available insects for in-lab predation experiments
* Total ask: $11,786.00

b) [4:31pm] - Presentation Begins “Healthy Futures: Creative Technology and Non-Toxic/Recycled Materials Research at the School of Art and Visual Studies”

* Two key initiatives aimed at advancing creative pedagogy through the integration of digital fabrication and sustainable practices
* Creation of a *Digital Matrix Modeling* course
* Development of a *Healthy Materials Lab*
* Total ask: $6,000.00

c) [4:49pm] - Presentation Begins “Campus Trees as Urban Forest: Updating and analyzing the campus tree inventory”

* Seeks to build collaborative practical and research partnerships between UK Facilities Services and UK faculty, staff, and students through a joint effort to update the UK Campus Tree Inventory.
* Assisting UK Facilities Services with updating tree size metrics (height, dbh) in the Campus Tree Inventory.
* Total ask: $14, 467.00

d) [5:13pm] - Presentation Begins “SSC 2025 Fall Retreat”

* Opportunity for new and existing council members to develop their relationships with each other and to learn about how to be an effective member of the SSC in a less formal setting than meetings that are held during the year.
* Total ask: $2000.00

d) [5:16pm] - Presentation Begins “2024-2025 SIP Scope Change Request”

* $5,325 from the remaining Sustainability Internship Program funds to hire a second UK Sustainability Communications intern to support our outreach efforts across social media, blog content, and overall campus storytelling
* $9,984 to extend the responsibilities of the chosen interns into the summer months preceding the formal internship year
* Total ask: $15,309.00

1. **Q&A Session** [4:19pm]
2. [4:23pm] – “Planting flowering shrubs underneath pest infested urban trees to manage pests and improve tree health” Q&A Begins

* Where are you looking to purchase shrubs?
  + Kelly Nursery LLC
* Are you looking at standard operating shrubs?
  + I chose shrubs that have not been treated with pesticides.
* Is there a reason you chose not to go with native shrubs?
  + I chose the shrubs off of their flowering times. The St john’s flower from July to frost, so I wanted to have species that flower for the longest times possible.
* Why did you not seed the areas around the trees?
  + This is a two year project, and the shrubs would not grow fast enough to see an effect with seeding.
* Is this your master’s thesis research?
  + Yes
* Are there any other sponsors?
  + I’ve applied to the PI start-up fund and the NSF fund. I did not receive funding from NSF.
* What would happen if you got the material for molecular work and not the undergraduate assistant?
  + I would continue to look for more funding to hire an undergrad.

[4:28pm] – Motion to extend by 2 mins Shaun, Sophia

* What is the process for hiring and undergraduate assistant?
  + My PI has a few people in mind. There are people who we know who would take the position. They would start once this semester ends.
* What part of the process is the undergrad focusing on?
  + They can do whatever they would like to focus on i.e. field sampling, lab work with molecular analysis

[4:31pm] – “Healthy Futures: Creative Technology and Non-Toxic/Recycled Materials Research at the School of Art and Visual Studies” Q&A Begins

* Will you explain your budget sheet?
  + The largest cost is the one-time equipment purchase (47%). Summer research funding is 31% and raw materials for summer research is 22%.
* What is the total amount?
  + $6,000.00
* Is there a possibility that you will collaborate with other sectors of SAVS?
  + Yes
* Would the course be available to people outside of SAVS?
  + Yes, they are open and rolling right now. There is potential to impact up to 100 students per year.
* Do you know how many students have signed up?
  + No
* Why do you primarily want funding?
  + Nobody has completed this same kind of implementation that we are planning to do in our lab. We would like to see demonstrated outcomes that students can achieve what we’ve been researching in the lab.

[4:49pm] – “Campus Trees as Urban Forest: Updating and analyzing the campus tree inventory” Q&A Begins

* Why are you not considering UAB lidar?
  + Lidar works well on a landscape scale, but we believe the tree inventory is better used for individual tree maintenance. We are collecting systematic data.
* Is there any plan in place for how UK grounds will maintain the database after students collect it?
  + UK grounds use the system for work orders. There is a way for individual people to log information with respect to tree maintenance. All the campus trees are not regularly surveyed on a daily basis. This research is a power opportunity to have a data set of individual trees on campus, so that we can track growth rates. UK grounds does not maintain the database for research purposes.

[5:03pm] – Motion to extend by 2 mins Shaun, Kauner

* Why is it important to gather this data?
  + We want to find out if the ways we are caring for our trees on campus are ensuring optimal growth.
* Is there potential for UK grounds to work on this project to collect data?
  + We would not be able to get a systematic data set. There is potential to collaborate with them, however, they have a full time job to take care of trees so the extra workload is unnecessary.
* Is there any concern that past data might not be accurate, so there might be effects to several aspects of the research?
  + We will work closely with Nic, who has firsthand experience with the dataset, to address any potential challenges.

[4:48pm] – “SSC 2025 Fall Retreat” Q&A Begins

* Would this funding rollover to next year?
  + Yes, it goes back to the general fund

1. **Discussion** [4:50pm]
2. [4:50pm] – Discussion of “Planting flowering shrubs underneath pest infested urban trees to manage pests and improve tree health” Begins
3. The Council amended the proposal to remove the request for an undergraduate research assistant as they felt that the educational and research objectives could still be meaningfully met within the existing structure.

[5:29pm] - Motion to extend discussion by 5 mins (Shaun, Leila 2nd)

[5:31pm] - Motion to amend the proposal to cut the undergraduate research assistant (Shaun, Leila 2nd)

[5:32pm] - Motion to vote (Sophia, Phoebe 2nd)

**VOTE RESULTS** – PASSED/NOT PASSED Yes [12] No [0] Abstain [0]

1. [4:50pm] – Discussion of “Healthy Futures: Creative Technology and Non-Toxic/Recycled Materials Research at the School of Art and Visual Studies” Begins
2. The council discussed how the do not always get a chance to collaborate with SAVS, so this project would expand the knowledge of the SSC to more students.

[5:36pm] - Motion to vote (Phoebe, Sophia 2nd)

**VOTE RESULTS** – PASSED/NOT PASSED Yes [12] No [0] Abstain [0]

1. [5:36pm] – Discussion of “Campus Trees as Urban Forest: Updating and analyzing the campus tree inventory” Begins
2. This decision does not reflect a lack of merit in the project itself - reviewers recognized its potential contributions to environmental stewardship and student engagement. However, there were lingering concerns about the balance of student engagement - particularly in terms of research involvement versus data collection - as well as the project's scale and the efficiency of the proposed methods relative to the funding requested. Ultimately, the committee felt that the project, though meaningful, did not fully align with the priorities for this funding cycle. [

[5:49pm] - Motion to vote (Phoebe, Sophia 2nd)

**VOTE RESULTS** – PASSED/NOT PASSED Yes [0] No [12] Abstain [0]

1. [5:50pm] – Discussion of “SSC Director Stipends 25-26” Begins
2. The council believes a retreat is necessary to build relationships.

[5:52pm] - Motion to vote (Mallory, Sophia 2nd)

**VOTE RESULTS** – PASSED/NOT PASSED Yes [12] No [0] Abstain [0]

1. [5:53pm] – Discussion of “2024-2025 SIP Scope Change Request” Begins
2. There were several applicants, and the two communications interns do very different work. Having more positions allows for more experience.

[6:05pm] - Motion to vote (Ella, Phoebe 2nd)

**VOTE RESULTS** – PASSED/NOT PASSED Yes [12] No [0] Abstain [0]

**PROPOSAL #1 VOTING RECORD, “**Planting flowering shrubs underneath pest infested urban trees to manage pests and improve tree health**”**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Y/N/A** | **Name** | **Y/N/A** |
| Shaun Lavin | Y | Darren Tosh | Y |
| Leila Dawson | Y | Mallory Sparks | Y |
| Sophia Cahill | Y | Phoebe Brown | Y |
| Samantha Dukes | Y | Sophia McKay | Y |
| Kauner Shacklette | Y | Sophia Hahn | Y |
| Kaylee Bliss | Y | Ella Bratcher | Y |

* + 1. Amount requested: [$11,786.00]
    2. Amount approved: [$3,038.64]

**PROPOSAL #2 VOTING RECORD, “**Healthy Futures: Creative Technology and Non-Toxic/Recycled Materials Research at the School of Art and Visual Studies**”**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Y/N/A** | **Name** | **Y/N/A** |
| Shaun Lavin | Y | Darren Tosh | Y |
| Leila Dawson | Y | Mallory Sparks | Y |
| Sophia Cahill | Y | Phoebe Brown | Y |
| Samantha Dukes | Y | Sophia Mckay | Y |
| Kauner Shacklette | Y | Sophia Hahn | Y |
| Kaylee Bliss | Y | Ella Bratcher | Y |

1. Amount requested: [$6,000.00]
2. Amount approved: [$6,000.00]

**PROPOSAL #3 VOTING RECORD, “**Campus Trees as Urban Forest: Updating and analyzing the campus tree inventory**”**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Y/N/A** | **Name** | **Y/N/A** |
| Shaun Lavin | N | Darren Tosh | N |
| Leila Dawson | N | Mallory Sparks | N |
| Sophia Cahill | N | Phoebe Brown | N |
| Samantha Dukes | N | Sophia Mckay | N |
| Kauner Shacklette | N | Sophia Hahn | N |
| Kaylee Bliss | N | Ella Bratcher | N |

1. Amount requested: [$14,46700]
2. Amount approved: [$0]

**PROPOSAL #4 VOTING RECORD, “**SSC 2025 Fall Retreat**”**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Y/N/A** | **Name** | **Y/N/A** |
| Shaun Lavin | A | Darren Tosh | Y |
| Leila Dawson | Y | Mallory Sparks | Y |
| Sophia Cahill | Y | Phoebe Brown | Y |
| Samantha Dukes | Y | Sophia Mckay | Y |
| Kauner Shacklette | Y | Sophia Hahn | Y |
| Kaylee Bliss | Y | Ella Bratcher | Y |

1. Amount requested: [$2,000.00]
2. Amount approved: [$2,000.00]

**PROPOSAL #4 VOTING RECORD, “**2024-2025 SIP Scope Change Request**”**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Y/N/A** | **Name** | **Y/N/A** |
| Shaun Lavin | Y | Darren Tosh | Y |
| Leila Dawson | Y | Mallory Sparks | Y |
| Sophia Cahill | Y | Phoebe Brown | Y |
| Samantha Dukes | Y | Sophia Mckay | Y |
| Kauner Shacklette | Y | Sophia Hahn | Y |
| Kaylee Bliss | Y | Ella Bratcher | Y |

1. Amount requested: [$15,309.00]
2. Amount approved: [$15,309.00]

**ATTENDANCE**

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