

Student Sustainability Council

Meeting Minutes February 21st, 2018

Members Present:

Name	P/A	Name	P/A	Name	P/A
Zoe Gabrielson	P	Julianna Dantzer	P	Megan Van Son	P
Nachie Braga	P	Mitch Mullins	P	Carson Harral	P
Cassie Odom	A	Jared Miniard	P	Cameron Luker	P
Zack Beavin	A	Viktor Halmos	P	Isabel Jenkins	P
Braydi McPherson-Hathaway	P	Ryan Lark	P	Luc Dunoyer	P
Rachel Kreppert	P	Maya Gershtenson	P	Shane Tedder	A
Gabriel Smith	P	Claire Crosby	P		
Lauren Thomas	P	Abby Shelton	A		
Rachel Cook	P	William Varney	P		
Sophie Beavin	P	Maya Collings-Patterson	E		
Amanda Williams	P	Maria Sanchez	P		

1) Beginning of Meeting

- a) [7:30pm] - Reading of the Preamble and Introductions

2) Proposal Presentations

- a) [7:37pm] - Proposal #1 (Sustainable Ag. Capstone Trip) Presentation Begins
- b) [7:42pm] - Proposal #1 Presentation Ends and Q&A Begins
- c) [7:47pm] - Proposal #1 Q&A Ends

- d) [7:48pm] - Proposal #2 (UKY Fair Trade Campaign) Presentation Begins
- e) [7:56pm] - Proposal #2 Presentation Ends and Q&A Begins
- f) [7:57pm] - Proposal #2 Q&A Ends

3) Proposal Discussions

- a) [7:57pm] - Discussion of Proposal #1 (Sustainable Ag. Capstone Trip)
Begins
- b) [7:59pm] - Discussion of Proposal #1 Ends
- c) [7:59pm] - Motion to vote on Proposal #1 (Motion by [Ryan], 2nd [Rachel])

VOTE RESULTS - PASSED - Yes [20] No [0] Abstain [1]

- d) [8:00pm] - Discussion of Proposal #2 (UKY Fair Trade Campaign) Begins
- e) [8:02pm] - Discussion of Proposal #2 Ends
- f) [8:02pm] - Motion to vote on Proposal #2 (Motion by [Mitch], 2nd

[Amanda])

VOTE RESULTS - PASSED - Yes [19] No [1] Abstain [1]

4) End of Meeting

- a) [8:03pm] - Outreach Committee Announcements
- b) [8:05pm] - Development Committee Announcements
- c) [8:07pm] - MEETING ADJOURNED

University of Kentucky Student Sustainability Council 2017-2018 Grant Application

1. Name: Mark Williams
2. Email: mark.williams@uky.edu
3. UK Affiliation: Professor in the Horticulture Department
4. Proposed Project Title: **Optimizing Student Learning in a Senior-level Capstone Class Through an Immersive Spring Break Study Tour**
5. If applicable, please provide the sponsoring or overseeing organization. (e.g. the Office of Sustainability, Wildcat Wheels, the Dept. of Ag. Economics, etc.): Department of Horticulture and Sustainable Agriculture Undergraduate Program.
6. Total Amount Requested from the Council: \$3,000
7. Would you like to make a presentation to the Council before your proposal is reviewed? Yes
8. Please mark the primary and secondary focus areas of your project with a **1** and **2**, respectively.

- Recycling:
- Transportation:
- Agriculture/Gardening: 1
- Water:
- Renewable Energy/
Energy Conservation:

- Climate Change:
- Local Environment:
- Behavioral Change:
- Species Diversity/Conservation:
- Other (Please Describe): Community food systems and food security: 2

9. Please name any other project leaders:

Name Lee Meyer	
Title & Department Professor, Department of Agriculture Economics	
Project Role Study Tour Co-leader	
Email Lee.meyer@uky.edu	
Name	
Title & Department	
Project Role	
Email	

Please note that any project leaders listed will be excused for closed discussion of their project proposal.

10. Please describe the project, its goals, and how it contributes to UK student knowledge, attitudes & culture, or practices of the 3 pillars of sustainability (i.e. economic, environmental and social), including potential long term effects.

Summary: For the past ten years the Sustainable Agriculture undergraduate program has used the capstone class *Integration of Sustainable Agriculture Principles* (SAG 490) to challenge students to develop a semester-long

project that is a culmination of their learning experiences in the program. Similar to other capstone classes in our college, the student projects involve research, design, and implementation phases, and students present their work in both written and oral forms at the end of the semester. A unique aspect of this class is that students are required to take a weeklong study tour that allows them to gain a deeper understanding of the projects they are working on by visiting exemplary agriculture systems in a specific region of our country. The trip is different each year and is based on the projects identified by the students, and is therefore tailored to optimize learning through first hand observation, inquiry and analysis. Through the study tours, students gain a transformative level of knowledge not obtainable in traditional classroom experiences, which have facilitated exemplary final projects, and refined their career path choices. This proposal is to provide partial funding to help cover the expenses for 9 students that will participate in this semester's study tour, which will take place during spring break.

Project plan including goals, significance, methods/approach, and timeline. At the beginning of the semester in SAG 490, students are asked to develop an idea for a project that will be the main focus of their learning experiences in the class. Topics are typically chosen so they relate to student career goals after graduation, or on a project that produces something capable of contributing to the sustainability of our local food system. Once the projects are identified and presented to the entire student group, the weekly class sessions (the class meets Fridays from 1:00-3:30) are developed by the instructor to provide information that allows for a deeper understanding of the individual projects. The process is very transparent and students learn from each other's ideas and thought evolution. The highlight of the semester is the study tour, where an area of the country is chosen to allow students to directly witness exemplary agricultural systems related to what they are developing. The purpose of the tours is to immerse the students in a very intensive experience that informs their thoughts processes based on touring successful farms and other agricultural systems. After returning from the study tour students incorporate their newly expanded knowledge into their projects and it is through this process that the impact of the study tour is most recognizable. Therefore the goal of this proposal is to provide an immersive learning opportunity capable of deeply impacting student understanding to guide the development of meaningful final projects.

Every semester that this class has been taught, written evaluations have shown that the students in this class overwhelmingly rate the study tour as one of their greatest learning experiences in college. There are numerous examples of how this tour and the way it has helped shape class projects has impacted students in a way that has changed their life and career direction and a select few that are impacting our food system are highlighted here:

- In 2009 there was a collective interest in community gardens and urban farming. The trip that semester was to the Chicago and Milwaukee area to study these topics. After witnessing very successful examples of these systems, two students were empowered to come back and use their projects to develop the Peacemeal community garden at the Leestown campus of Bluegrass Community and Technical College. After graduation one of the students became the garden's first Manager and then based on her success became the Manager for the Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program's Greenhouse 17 garden in Lexington. Another student in that class went on to a career as the community garden coordinator for the city of Baltimore.
- In 2011 there were several students interested in food poverty and social justice issues associated with agriculture. The class trip included a tour of Atlanta, GA and other cities in the south to gain a deeper understanding on how agricultural systems could address these topics. As a result one student was inspired to develop a unique CSA marketing system called Fresh Stop CSA (<https://freshstoplex.wordpress.com>) that uses faith-based groups to aggregated multiple small farmers into a collective CSA with subsidized shares going to community members in impoverished and food insecure neighborhoods.
- In 2012 there was a strong class interest in aquaponics and urban farming. The class trip focused on touring model aquaponics systems in Milwaukee and Chicago. With very little previous knowledge of the topic prior to this class and trip, the students worked with a local foods advocate to develop the nationally recognized

FoodChain aquaponics system in downtown Lexington. (<http://www.foodchainlex.org>). The original aquaponics system, developed as a capstone project, was the system used at the start of FoodChain, and has been reproduced at several high schools in Lexington. Immediately after graduation that semester, one of the students in this class became the Farm Manager for FoodChain and he worked tirelessly to help develop the system into one of the premier urban indoor aquaponics systems in the country.

The study tour this semester will take place during spring break. The course Instructor, the students in the class, and one additional faculty member will depart on Sunday morning, March 11 and return Friday night, March 16th. One of the main assessments of student learning on the study tour is that students are required to keep a daily journal that evaluates the sustainability (economic, environmental and social) of each farm that we experience. The assignment is attached to this request.

This year we will have the unique opportunity to travel to agricultural and sustainability-related sites in Washington State and Oregon. Typically the study tour is confined to neighboring states because of the cost prohibitive aspect of purchasing plane tickets. In an unprecedented way, parents of a student in the class have funded the purchase of 10 plane tickets for the group as a way to give back to our program for their student's education. The main idea behind this extremely generous contribution is that the educational opportunities that will be possible in the Pacific North will be exceptional due to the advanced state of sustainable agriculture and living in that area (it is a hotbed of development for these topics). We will experience a range of farms and farming systems including: multiple vegetable farms, Urban Farms in Seattle, hop production, a native plant nursery, mushroom production, flower production, homesteading based on alternative energy, a botanic garden, cheese making, and fruit production. All sites have been carefully chosen based as models for sustainability. In general we will tour 3-4 farms and agricultural sites per day.

11. Name any anticipated project affiliates and describe the extent of their support, including any financial, matching or in-kind support. Specific details are encouraged.

The capstone study tour is funded through a combination of student course fees (minor contribution) and through funds generated through sales in our UK CSA program (<https://ukcsa.wordpress.com/>). The UK CSA is used as a farming apprenticeship (SAG 397) and is required for students in the Sustainable Agriculture program, such as the students that will be going on this trip. Funds from the CSA are almost exclusively used for salaries for students and staff that work on the farm outside of the apprenticeship and using those funds to support this trip limits the number of student workers that can work on the CSA. Basically the funds requested here will ensure that student learning is optimized in this capstone trip and maximize the number of hours that students can learn and work on our CSA farm.

12. Please mark the primary target population of your project with a **1**.

- UK (general):
- Undergraduates: 1
- Graduates:
- Community:
- Faculty:
- Other (Please Describe):

In 250 words or less, please answer the following questions.

13. Describe the intended University of Kentucky audiences and potential number of people impacted including any potential diverse segments such as student or community organizations and supporting evidence (e.g. expected or historical event/speaker attendance). See the summary above. This project will directly impact nine undergraduate students. The impacts that the projects that result from this class on our community have been far-reaching (see summary above for examples).
14. Are there any students involved in the proposed project? If so, do they benefit from professional or technical skills, outputs, or experiences such as presentations, posters, or reports? Students are the main people involved in this project and they produce a written report of the study tour (assignment attached).
15. Please describe any previous history and to what extent you, other project leaders, or the sponsoring organization may have with the UK Student Sustainability Council. I received funding last year for the study tour for this class. Also I have received funding for an electric powered bike and trailer for our CSA program (grant was submitted by one of my staff, Kristi Durbin).
16. Please outline a timeline and milestones to ensure project efficacy prior to and after project implementation. The study tour will occur during spring break, March 11-16, 2018. The requested funds are to pay for hotel expenses and the money will be spent by March 16th. Student sustainability assessments will be due on Friday, March 24th.
17. Does the success of your project require prior approval of other UK or non-UK entities (e.g. IRB or venue approval, etc.)? If so, please provide supporting documentation. No
18. Please demonstrate how the Student Sustainability Council will be credited or advertised in your project (this can include promotional material). Would a project leader be available for a radio interview? I would be happy to do a radio interview and mention the support in our future press releases about this trip.
19. Using the following format, please provide a line item budget for the total amount request and what percent of the project is being sponsored by SSC funding. Provide information sources or reasoning for the budget estimates.

Description	\$ Total Cost	\$ Request from SSC	Source of remaining funds
Transportation (2 mini-vans for six days)	1,000	1,000	
Hotels (4 rooms per night for 5 nights)	2,000	2,000	
Airplane tickets	6,500		Donation
Entrance fees	300		CSA

20. Are you willing to accept a general reduction in your budget? Yes
21. Are you willing to accept line item changes in your budget? Yes
22. You may include additional attachments to supplement the application such as promotional material, resumes, letters of collaborative funding, etc. I am attaching the syllabus for the course and the assignment associated with this study tour. Students are required to discuss the sustainability of each of the agricultural enterprises that we will be visiting.

Submit project proposals and/or questions on proposal processes to **ukstudentsustainabilitycouncil@gmail.com** with 'SSC Proposal' as the subject line.

If successfully funded, a councilmember will be assigned to your project. Failure to communicate with this person can result in a total or partial loss of funding. **Any changes in the use of approved funding must be resubmitted and re-approved by the Council. Unused funds are automatically returned to the SSC.**

Project proposals will be considered on a rolling basis and must be received 1 week prior a scheduled meeting in order to be considered for the agenda. If SSC and applicant are able to confirm that project, if funded, would be in compliance with University Business Procedures. The 2017-2018 meeting schedule is on our website.

University of Kentucky Student Sustainability Council 2017-2018 Grant Application

1. Name: Megan Van Son
2. Email: megan.vanson@uky.edu
3. UK Affiliation: Student
4. Proposed Project Title: Fair Trade at UKY
5. If applicable, please provide the sponsoring or overseeing organization. (e.g. the Office of Sustainability, Wildcat Wheels, the Dept. of Ag. Economics, etc.): NA
6. Total Amount Requested from the Council: \$2,100
7. Would you like to make a presentation to the Council before your proposal is reviewed? Yes.
8. Please mark the primary and secondary focus areas of your project with a **1** and **2**, respectively.

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recycling: ● Transportation: ● Agriculture/Gardening: 1 ● Water: ● Renewable Energy/ ● Energy Conservation: ● Climate Change: ● Local Environment: ● Behavioral Change: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Species Diversity/Conservation: ● Other (Please Describe): 2
International Sustainability - Focusing on creating ethical trading policies for consumers, farmers, workers, and companies to allow for and support environmentally sustainable production practices and community growth. |
|---|---|

9. Please name any other project leaders:

Name	
Title & Department	
Project Role	
Email	
Name	
Title & Department	
Project Role	
Email	

Please note that any project leaders listed will be excused for closed discussion of their project proposal.

10. Please describe the project, its goals, and how it contributes to UK student knowledge, attitudes & culture, or practices of the 3 pillars of sustainability (i.e. economic, environmental and social), including potential long term effects.
The Fair Trade Campaign at the University of Kentucky was started in the fall of 2017 as a part of a national effort to certify universities across the United States as Fair Trade Universities, meaning that these campuses support the practices and principles of sustainable, ethical trading and sourcing. Through Fair Trade, consumer purchases help farmers and families in 70 countries across the globe earn fair wages, work in safe environments, protect the environment, and increase accessibility to education. Fair Trade Certified products support the hard working people who produce many of the products that we love, including coffee, tea, sugar, cocoa, bananas, apparel, and more. The Fair Trade Campaigns organization recognizes towns, colleges, universities, and congregations for embedding Fair Trade practices and principles. The organization also provides tools and support events to launch and grow local Fair Trade Campaigns.

So far in the state of Kentucky, only two universities are certified, and the University of Kentucky is not one of them. With this campaign, UK has the opportunity to become the largest university in the state to be a Fair Trade Certified University. The campaign at UK is a campus wide initiative working to engage students and bring awareness and deeper understanding of ethical, sustainable trade practices on a global scale. The campaign encourages a shift toward sustainability-minded purchases for dining facilities, catering events, and educational programs. One of the main goals of Fair Trade is to create a trade market that protects the environment and lands used for agriculture, while ensuring a living wage for the farmers and families that work the land. Fair Trade supports and educates these farmers in sustainable agricultural practices and provides educational opportunities for the children of farming families so they can help lift their community and encourage environmental protection. This support and opportunity is only possible when backed by communities, universities, and organizations. While our current campaign effort is still in its beginning stages, the University of Kentucky holds a tremendous opportunity to not only become a certified university, but to also show other large schools in the Southeast and across the nation that significant change is possible through collaboration and creativity. The campaign at the University of Kentucky has the opportunity to provide inspiration and encouragement for other schools in our region, essentially creating a ripple effect for neighboring states and universities.

11. Name any anticipated project affiliates and describe the extent of their support, including any financial, matching or in-kind support. Specific details are encouraged.

The Fair Trade Campaign at the University of Kentucky is in the final stages of completing the process to become an official organization on campus. Once approved, the organization will be applying for funding with the Student Organizations and Activities Board. The student committee for the campaign is currently working to partner with Aramark, the contracted dining services supplier for UK. This does not include any monetary support, but rather cooperation in evaluating current buying/sourcing practices and negotiating purchases with Fair Trade certified companies and suppliers. For the Fair Trade Campaigns National Conference, the president of the Fair Trade Campaign at UK received a scholarship to attend the event in Washington, D.C., but did not receive any funding for additional students/officers to attend.

12. Please mark the primary target population of your project with a 1.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● UK (general): 1● Undergraduates:● Graduates: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Community:● Faculty:● Other (Please Describe): |
|--|--|

In 250 words or less, please answer the following questions.

13. Describe the intended University of Kentucky audiences and potential number of people impacted including any potential diverse segments such as student or community organizations and supporting evidence (e.g. expected or historical event/speaker attendance).

The Fair Trade Campaign at the University of Kentucky is directed toward the entire campus population and has potential extend beyond campus into the Lexington community. Our organization is open to any student at the University of Kentucky interested in Fair Trade and global trading in an ethical, sustainable way. The campaign is not specifically targeted toward a particular segment of the UK population, but rather seeks to maximize impact through the integration of sustainable, ethical practices and principles in UK dining locations; dining partnerships with restaurants on and near campus; staff, administration, and athletic meetings, conferences, and events; and student-led educational seminars and programs to increase awareness and understanding of Fair Trade concepts. Some of these outlets on campus include dining facilities run through Aramark on campus (Fresh Food Company at the 90, Fusion, Intermezzo, Wildcat Pantries, etc.) and partner restaurants (all Starbucks locations, Common Grounds, Brioche Doree, etc.). The Fair Trade Campaign has the opportunity to expand beyond campus limits in encouraging local restaurants, groups, and organizations to also incorporate sustainable, ethical product sourcing. The requirements to become a Fair Trade certified university includes hosting at least two educational activities each term and passing a one-time, lasting Fair Trade resolution through administration. The educational activity requirement guarantees student engagement throughout the year, including seminars, info sessions, tabling, student and professor-led discussions, etc. To pass a resolution through the UK administration, the organization will work to engage the student body continually to show the student-led commitment to equality and sustainability.

14. Are there any students involved in the proposed project? If so, do they benefit from professional or technical skills, outputs, or experiences such as presentations, posters, or reports?

The Fair Trade Campaign at the UK is open to any student who is interested in supporting sustainability and equitable trade. Through this organization and its committees (including research, marketing, outreach, etc.), students gain an in-depth understanding of what it means to run a campaign, how to engage the target audiences, and the research design and implementation process, all while also learning about sustainable practices across the globe, and how these relate to ethics and trade. Additionally, all students in the organization have the opportunity to develop their professional communication skills through presentations to classes, faculty groups, and organizations; proposals to partner organizations; and communication with faculty and administration for the implementation of Fair Trade practices on campus.

The students involved in the research committee will produce a written report detailing the research conducted through campus-wide surveys and focus groups to analyze the level of education and perception surrounding Fair Trade concepts. This report will also be transferred and displayed on different platforms including posters, presentations, and online.

The students attending the Fair Trade Campaigns National Conference will be attending a variety of lecture and discussions on topics including: "Climate Change and Fair Trade: Sustainability, Adaptation, and Resilience", "Social Justice and Sustainability Toolkits", "Breaking Down Silos: Human Justice, Sustainability, and Fair Trade", "Fair Trade at the Heart of Sustainability", and "Driving Purchase to Drive Impact". The conference will better enable these students to lead the UK campaign and educate the campus and community in the future.

15. Please describe any previous history and to what extent you, other project leaders, or the sponsoring organization may have with the UK Student Sustainability Council.

The founder of the Fair Trade campaign at UK and the president of the Fair Trade campus organization is Megan Van Son, who became an at large member of the Student Sustainability Council in Fall 2017. Prior to becoming an at-large member, Megan was in contact with several professors, students, and organizations that had experience with the SSC.

16. Please outline a timeline and milestones to ensure project efficacy prior to and after project implementation.

Date	Milestone
2/9/17	Applied for official organization approval at UK. All documentation submitted and faculty sponsorship received.
2/12/17	Met with Aramark Sustainability Coordinator on UK campus and received approval for introducing Fair Trade products in campus outlets.
2/13/17	Conference call with Fair Trade University Campaigns National Organizer, Kylie Nealis, to discuss strategies for engaging students across campus and partnering with Aramark.
2/16/17	Approved as an official organization on campus. OrgSync page published.
~ 3/1/17	Apply for funding through Student Organizations and Activities Board to supplement for promotional/educational materials.
~ 3/8/17	Present proposal for integrating Fair Trade practices and principles in current Aramark dining locations on campus.
3/23/17 - 3/25/17	Students in Washington, D.C. to attend Fair Trade Campaigns National Conference.
~ 4/3/17, ~4/16/17	Host information sessions/student-led seminars covering Fair Trade and sustainability introductory topics, campaign support signups, and recap from National Conference.
4/30/17 -	Host Fair Trade Finals event (promotional/educational tabling and info sessions)

5/4/17	
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17. Does the success of your project require prior approval of other UK or non-UK entities (e.g. IRB or venue approval, etc.)? If so, please provide supporting documentation.

NA

18. Please demonstrate how the Student Sustainability Council will be credited or advertised in your project (this can include promotional material). Would a project leader be available for a radio interview?

The Student Sustainability Council will be credited by the Fair Trade National Conference leadership and marketing team for their support for the students attending. This will mainly be through announcements/ handout materials at the conference and student recognition. The 2018 Fair Trade Campaigns National Conference will recognize campuses that contribute funding to facilitate attendance for at least three students, staff or faculty via various communication outlets and conference materials. More details about recognition/promotional materials from the conference can be found on the [conference website](#).

For all promotional material, the SSC will be advertised at all events held throughout the semester through handouts, posters/information on tables, and on the Fair Trade website/Facebook page. A project leader is available for a radio interview. Following the National Conference, the students who attended will be leading discussion groups and info sessions on campus. In each of these sessions, the SSC will be credited through word of mouth and promotional materials that are displayed and handed out.

19. Using the following format, please provide a line item budget for the total amount request and what percent of the project is being sponsored by SSC funding. Provide information sources or reasoning for the budget estimates.

Description	\$ Total Cost	\$ Request from SSC	Source of remaining funds
National Conference Student Fee (\$150/student)	\$600	\$450	Fair Trade Campaigns Conference Scholarship
Transportation costs to/from National Conference (flights for 3 students from Lexington, KY) (train transportation fees from Baltimore, MD for one student)	\$1500	\$950	Fair Trade Campaigns Conference Scholarship
National Conference Hotel (for four students)	\$900	\$250	Fair Trade Campaigns Conference Scholarship
Fair Trade Promotional Water Bottles	\$450	\$450	

20. Are you willing to accept a general reduction in your budget? Yes.
21. Are you willing to accept line item changes in your budget? Yes.
22. You may include additional attachments to supplement the application such as promotional material, resumes, letters of collaborative funding, etc.