

UTBEAT Meeting #8: Feb. 13th, 2008

Present: Elah, Maria, Laura T., Laura S., Christian, Donna, Simona, Jessica F., Jessica K.

Guest: Senning, UTERN president

Chairing: Elah

Minutes: Patti

Agenda:

1. Review Actions
2. UTERN president Q & A
3. Project Updates
4. Funding
5. News items for website
6. Next meeting

1. Review Actions

Elah: - EEB and CSB policies on double-siding theses needs further investigation
- undergrad student in Sustainability Office looking into departmental policies on double-siding across the University

Maria: - made UTBEAT Facebook group
- posted ad for UTBEAT on BIOME

Ying - Undergrad posters made, approved by Maria and ready to be used in classes
- Contacted ULIFE but have not heard back from them yet

ACTION – Ying will send Maria blurb for ULIFE for approval so ready to be sent as soon as hear back from ULife

2. UTERN president Q&A

- Senning, UTERN president, describes UTERN
 - UTERN is a networking and funding body for undergrad environmental projects
 - Funding restricted to projects led by undergrads, projects have to benefit undergrads, and cannot be infrastructure projects
 - It is unlikely UTERN will fund composting bags but he encourages group to put in grant application anyway
 - Funding for binding machine for Paper Re-Use project would be considered and it may be possible for UTERN to buy the machine and loan it out to groups as needed

3. Project Updates

Composting (Project Leader: Simona)

- Pilot project in RW still happening

ACTION – Donna will ask RW office staff if they would like to participate in composting project

ACTION – Simona will confirm with Norm that expanding composting pilot project in RW is okay with him

ACTION – Simona will ask Norm if she can put up signs on his composting bins identifying them as such

- Lunch rooms in ESC all have bins
 - Simona and Jessica K. have been only ones removing waste to date but have more volunteers to help out
 - Currently using newspaper to line bins instead of bags, which Demetrios Voudouris did not object to when Simona informed him of this via email
 - Laminated information signs posted above all bins and UTBEAT contact info posted on all bins

ACTION – Simona will put laminated info and contact signs onto all bins

- Need to purchase an aerator for composting bin

ACTION – Simona will submit a grant application to UTERN for aerator

- Food for All gardening group is interested in taking the compost when ready

Disposable Dishes (Project leader: Jessica F.)

- Bring your own mug policy to Darwin Day a success
 - Drink services had no problem with this
 - Dept saved money by not using disposable glasses
 - Well accepted by all who attended
- Catering service used by U of T has options for real china as well as disposable dishes

ACTION – Jessica will write up pricing options and will send to chairs of EEB, CSB, and Forestry (via Laura T.)

- UTERN has dishes to loan out for events but have to be washed

ACTION – Jessica will see if dishwasher in RW 4th floor lounge is functional and if it can be used for events

Promotions (Project leader: Maria)

- UTERN approved grant for signage costs but Maria is unsure for how much (application was for \$585)
 - If group does not receive money from UTERN by Feb 22, should put up temporary signs until money comes through

ACTION – Elah will look into UTERN's grant accountability policy

- Signage options discussed:
 - Encouraging stair use over elevator use
 - Turning off lights in bathrooms
 - Ensuring taps properly turned off in bathrooms
 - Hand dryers more efficient than paper towels?

ACTION – Jessica K. will send Elah literature on hand dryers vs. paper towels

ACTION – Elah will look into energy costs of using elevators for posters

- Light removal
 - Tamar/Ian not willing to remove any lights in hallways

- Individual rooms can have superfluous lights removed by contacting custodial staff

ACTION – Maria will send out email to people in RW informing of light removal options

ACTION – Maria will send out email to group asking for volunteers to make/post signs

FSC Certified Paper (Project leader: Laura S.)

- University has a deal with Canon for paper but it is up to individual depts who they buy paper from
- Need to find out how much paper CSB and EEB uses
 - Sustainability Office has information on amount of paper used by Forestry dept and by courses

ACTION – Patti will find out how much paper is used in RW from Terry

ACTION – Laura S will research suppliers and costs for a report to give to departments encouraging switching to FSC certified paper

Paper Re-use (Project leader: Greta)

- Paper re-use trays now in EEB photocopy room and reception

ACTION – Greta will send Maria signs for trays for approval and then post signs

ACTION – Elah will ask UTERN if we can buy paper trays with grant given to Promotions

- Everyone who has extra paper trays should bring them in so they can be distributed around the departments

4. Funding

- Possible additional funding sources to UTERN include a bake sale and the departments

ACTION – Simona and Elah will develop a budget proposal to give out to departments

- Suggested we ask grad student unions for money before approaching departmental chairs
 - Would like to ask for \$50-100 from each department

ACTION – Laura T. will ask FSGA

ACTION – Christian will ask CSBGU

ACTION – Donna/Jessica F. will ask EGSA

5. News items for website

- Need to update News section for website
 - Everyone should send Elah any updates of projects to be posted

ACTION – Elah will put a blurb about UTERN funding on website

6. Next meeting

- Next meeting was not scheduled due to a possible conflict with EEB Internal Seminar schedule

ACTION – Maria will ask Helen Rodd about schedule and inform Elah

- Meeting will be scheduled by email once this conflict is resolved