

Call to Order: The meeting convened at 3:03 p.m.

Attendance

- Students: Mark Berg, Tiffany Gray, Ealish Matrisian
- Classified: Joy McEldery, Jo Scozzafava
- Faculty: Elizabeth Goulet, Eric Gresseth, Scott Rausch, Mark Weber
- Exempt: Dana Brolley, Gary Gorland, Peggy Itschner
- Council staff: Jack Bautsch
- Guests: Amy LaZerte, Alyssa Corcoran, Tom Brazionas, Wes Morrow, Audrey-Rose Barnes

Blog update: Mark Berg reported that development work on the College Council blog is nearly complete. He expects it to be functional next week.

Licton Springs P-Patch: Amy LaZerte provided an update on the P-Patch. It was an idea that originated in a sustainability class three years ago. It has come to fruition with leadership from the Sustainability Committee, working with the Department of Neighborhoods, the Licton Springs Community Council, a certified arborist and a landscape architect among others. The patch will cover 15,000 square feet on a site at the south end of campus along N 92nd Street. The site should be ready in time for spring gardening.

The land is being leased by the college (e.g. the state) to the city, but Amy emphasized that it is the community's P-Patch, not the college's. It will be run by the gardeners themselves as are the other P-Patches in the city. She noted that 90% of the gardeners will be people from the community. Ten percent of the plots will be reserved for the college, "however we want to use it." For example, student clubs might want to use the college plots, or it they might be incorporated into classes such as environmental science or biology.

Campus Toilets: Alyssa Corcoran a member of the Sustainability Committee, sought the council's endorsement of a pilot project to reduce the amount of water being used in the campus' self-flushing toilets. The problem is that the self-flushing toilets are flushing, on average, from one to three times as often as necessary. Each unnecessary flush represents 1.6 gallons of wasted water.

The proposal is to disable the auto-flush mechanism on toilets in two restrooms—one for women and one for men—in the tower outside of the Espresso Lounge. Signs would be posted (in multiple languages) asking patrons to "push the button to flush the toilet." Under the proposal, the toilets would be disabled for a specified time period, and during that time monitored for both water usage and sanitary conditions. If the experiment proved successful in terms of conserving water while maintaining sanitary conditions, then the Sustainability Committee would likely recommend that the auto-flush mechanism be disabled on all campus toilets.

The auto-flush mechanism is battery-operated. Replacing the batteries is expensive, time-consuming, on-going, and results in used batteries that wind up in landfills. For these reasons, returning to manually-flushed toilets is the preferred solution.

The council passed the following motion:

The College Council supports the “manual flushing” pilot project proposed by the Sustainability Committee, and recommends that the Executive Team approve moving forward with the experiment.		
Yes: Berg, Gray, Matrisian, Scozzafava, McEldery, Gresseth, Rausch, Goulet, Weber, Itschner, Gorland, Brolley	No: none	Abstain: none

The council suggested that the pilot project be initiated at the beginning of Winter Quarter, and recommended adding Spanish and French to the list of languages in which the signage appears.

The discussion of restrooms led into a different topic, that of non-students using campus restrooms for “sponge bathing.” After a brief discussion, the council decided not to address the issue at this time.

Textbooks and Town Hall Meeting: Co-chairs Weber and Berg suggested that the costs of textbooks be the topic of a Winter Quarter Town Hall meeting. The council endorsed the idea, although some concern was raised that textbooks may not be of interest to constituents other than students and faculty.

The intent of the meeting would be not only to raise awareness—about the impact of expensive textbooks on students and the challenges faced by faculty when choosing instructional materials—but also for students and faculty to collaboratively explore ideas for how to keep costs down while still providing quality materials to support the teaching/learning process. Cost-reduction methods could range from use of open-source on-line materials to lower-cost options provided by publishers and the bookstore. After some discussion, the council agreed that a panel of presenters would be the preferred format, followed by an “open mike” period in which those in attendance would be given an opportunity to make time-limited remarks.

The meeting will be held on the first Tuesday in February (February 5th—the council’s regular meeting day), but earlier in the afternoon (1:00) in order to attract more students. A prominent, visible location like the Baxter Center is preferred. While textbooks will be the focus of the meeting, other council topics/activities will be summarized very briefly as a way to increase visibility of council activities among the campus community.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes by Jack Bautsch