



University Sustainability Coalition Meeting
March 15, 2022
10am - 11am
Virtual Meeting

The University Sustainability Coalition was formed with one goal: To increase higher education sustainability efforts in Louisiana.

The idea of forming the university sustainability coalition was born from a steering committee of university representatives developing the university affiliate program as part of an EPA Trash Free Waters Grant with UL Lafayette and Keep Louisiana Beautiful. There are no fees associated with being a part of the coalition, just a seat at the table with your peers to communicate and is open to anyone in higher ed sustainability. Current sustainability coalition members represent universities from Dillard University, Grambling State University, Louisiana State University, Loyola University, Nicholls State University, Northwestern State University, Tulane University, River Parishes Community College, Xavier University, UL Monroe, UL Lafayette, University of New Orleans, Louisiana Tech and Fletcher Technical Community College.

Attending: 16 Individuals, 10 Universities

Keep Louisiana Beautiful: Cabell Mouton, Susan Russell, Patty Ferrell
Dillard University: LaDrienna Howze
Nicholls State: Mary Jackson
UL Lafayette: David Yarbrough, Blair Begnaud
Grambling State University: Rory Bedford, Ellen Smiley, Dagne Hill
Tulane University: Jordan Stewart, Liz Davey
UNO: Carol Lunn
Xavier University: Helena Robinson, Sara Good
LSU: Jerrod Penn, Tammy Millican
Louisiana Tech: Wes Cavin
Fletcher Technical Community College: Jacqueline Richard
Loyola: Aimee Thomas

Meeting Opened: 10:00 am

Introductions were made.

Report:

The University Sustainability Coalition was formed to provide a platform to discuss sustainability challenges and solutions that are common across higher ed institutions. With that said, the meeting was turned over to Liz Davey of Tulane University for a presentation on Move Out Challenges.

When students move in, they tend to bring everything but tend to leave much of it behind when they move out leaving the university staff to deal with it. Tulane has developed three models for addressing the challenges of what to do with those items left behind by students. Items left behind range from food and personal care items to clothes and household items. It is important to involve both student volunteers and community organizations such as Goodwill to assist and facilitate with the donation process. The most successful effort at Tulane has been the Trash to Treasures sale where goods are collected throughout the year and then sold annually to other students with proceeds being donated to other worthwhile causes. Educating students to reduce waste and to recycle/reuse is also a challenge. The University provides fliers to each of the residence halls and sets up designated collection sites to encourage students to properly dispose of their belongings versus just throwing it all in a dumpster. Success is largely dependent on having enough volunteers to organize and execute a disposal plan and to make it as easy and convenient as possible for the students to comply with the plan.

Following the presentation, questions were addressed, and participants shared ideas on how move out challenges were addressed on their individual campuses. Common issues centered on having space to store items for future sale, recruiting student volunteers and educating students on recycling/reusing items they no longer needed. Providing incentives to recycle and/or disincentives for using the dumpster, might encourage students to be more mindful of their actions when moving out.

For your reference, a copy of the presentation is included with the minutes.

As a reminder, the university affiliate certification program will conclude in May at which time the seven universities currently participating will become certified affiliates. Applications for the next group of affiliate universities may be submitted in June. Louisiana is one of only two states that offers a university affiliate program. The other state being California.

Also, as a member of the coalition, you are encouraged to participate in Love the Boot week which is KLB's annual campaign to promote community cleanup and beautification projects across the state. You can choose to organize your own event or to volunteer for an existing event. Details of the campaign can be found at lovetheboot.org.

Dates/Topics for upcoming meetings:

April 26 – Aimee Thomas/Loyola University Sustainability Efforts

May 17 – LSU/UL Lafayette/Tulane University Panel Discussion/OZZI Sustainable Solutions

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 26, 10am to 11am

Meeting adjourned at 11:00pm

