



University Sustainability Coalition Meeting
Virtual Meeting
November 30, 2022
11am – 12pm

The University Sustainability Coalition was formed in 2021 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. By sharing challenges and solutions, members of this coalition can influence others in moving toward a more sustainable future.

Current sustainability coalition members represent the following universities and colleges: 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: 17 Individuals, 10 Universities

Keep Louisiana Beautiful: Cabell Mouton (Facilitator), Patty Ferrell, Susan Russell, Melissa Kenyon

LSU: Jerrod Penn (Chair), Lisa Mahoney

Tulane University: Jordan Stewart (Co-Chair)

Nicholls State: Natalie Waters, Allyse Ferrara

Northwestern: Steve Gruesbeck

Loyola University: Mark Tobler, Dylan Tyler

UL Lafayette: Blair Begnaud

UNO: Carol Lunn

Grambling University: Michelle Hopwood

Xavier University: Helena Robinson

River Parishes Community College: Esperanza Zenon

Meeting Opened: 11:00 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. Since not everyone was able to attend the State Conference meeting, Cabell Mouton recapped the meeting schedule and related topics for the upcoming academic year and highlighted that student participation would be encouraged. Cabell also discussed two new agenda topics that resulted from discussion at the Conference; student green fees to support more sustainability options on campus and a green rating system for universities to attract students to that university. The coalition leadership structure was then reviewed. Jerrod Penn from LSU will continue to serve as Chair of the coalition and Jordan Stewart from Tulane will serve as Co-Chair.

The meeting was then turned over to the guest speaker, Laura Rost with the Xerces Society for a presentation on Bee Campus USA. The presentation focused on how to protect pollinators and the important role that pollinators play in our day to day lives. With up to 40% of pollinator species at risk of extinction in the coming years, the Xerces Society works to educate communities/campuses on how to protect wildlife through conservation of invertebrates and their habitats. Laura discussed the requirements to become a Bee Campus and the related benefits of being an affiliate of Bee City, USA. She also gave examples of what some universities around the country are doing. Laura also provided information on various resources that are available to the public and encouraged sharing of information across universities. LSU and University of Louisiana Lafayette are currently the only two Bee Campuses in Louisiana. Jerrod shared his experience saying it can be an easy win with both students and faculty and does not have to be an expensive undertaking. Blair Begnaud mentioned UL was already doing many of the things required to become a Bee Campus which made the application process easy and both students and staff have really embraced the program.

Laura was kind enough to share her [presentation](#) with us.

Cabell provided information on KLB's Beautification Grants that coalition members are eligible to apply for. One requirement of this grant is that 25% of all plantings need to be native plants and therefore would complement one of the requirements of becoming a Bee Campus. In addition to the Beautification Grant, KLB is also offering a Trash Receptacle Grant that may be applied for. Please refer to the KLB website for additional information on these grants.

Below please find the schedule for our upcoming meetings:

January 25, 10am-11am

University Adopt-a-Meeting: UL Lafayette, Blair Begnaud and UNO, Carol Lunn

Meeting Topic and Presenter: Tree Campus and Native Planting

March 29, 10am -11am

University Adopt-a-Meeting: UL Lafayette, Blair Begnaud and Tulane, Jordan Stewart

Meeting Topic and Presenter: How to Engage Faculty and Students

May 10, 10am-11am

University Adopt-a-Meeting: ALL

Meeting Topic and Presenter: Spring Green Activities: Successes and Challenges

Meeting adjourned at 12:15pm.

