



University Sustainability Coalition Meeting
Virtual Meeting
November 14, 2023
10 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

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 education sustainability. By sharing challenges and solutions, members of this coalition can influence others to move toward a more sustainable future.

Current sustainability coalition members represent 17 universities from Centenary College, Dillard University, Fletcher Community College, Grambling State University, LA Tech, Louisiana State University, Loyola University, McNeese University, Nicholls State University, Northwestern State University, River Parishes Community College, Tulane University, Xavier University, UL Monroe, UL Lafayette, and University of New Orleans.

Attending In-person: 19 Individuals, 10 Universities

Keep Louisiana Beautiful: Cabell Mouton (Facilitator), Melissa Kenyon, Jessie Chappius

Dillard: Kem Opperman-Torres

Fletcher Community College: Esperanza Zenon

LSU: Dr. Tammy Millican, Lisa Mahoney

Nicholls State: Dr. Mary Jackson

Loyola University: Mark Tobler

River Parishes Community College: Esperanza Zenon

Tulane University: Jordan Stewart (Co-Chair), Greg Feiling, Kaitlyn Poe, Zoe Friese

UL Lafayette: Jonathan R. Brown (Chair), Blair Begnaud, Frank Clavelle III, Tiff Segura

UL Monroe: Andrew Hardee

Xavier University: Helena Robinson

Meeting Opened: 10:00 a.m.

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 education institutions. Cabell Mouton gave an overview of the current purpose of the coalition and announced the new coalition Chair, Jonathan Brown, UL Lafayette, and serving her second year as Co-Chair Jordan Stewart, Tulane Brief introductions were made.

This is the second meeting of the academic year, The coalition will meet four times this year, one in-person meeting in October followed by three subsequent virtual meetings: November 14, January 24, and March 27. The coalition discussed in October proposing the institutionalization of sustainability approved by the Board of Regents tying it to primary and secondary university mission statements. A small steering committee will need to be formed to define direction, goals, and objectives. If anyone is interested in serving on the committee, please reach out to Cabell (KLB), Jonathan (UL Lafayette), or Jordan (Tulane.) It was noted a webpage has been created for the University Sustainability Coalition to find all meeting dates, agendas, presentations, and contact information for coalition members:

<https://keeplouisianabeautiful.org/universitysustainabilitycoalition/>

Dr. Tammy Millican, Facilities and Property Executive Director at LSU, presented on the Ross Zeigledesch Sustainability Fund. In 2016, the LSU student body passed a fee for a Student Sustainability Fund to implement sustainability projects proposed by students, faculty, and staff. Proposed projects and programs must meet at least 1 of 3 SSF Strategic goals to be considered by the SSF Committee. The SSF Committee is made up of members from different students, faculty, campus organizations, offices, and groups, housed by the SGA, Student Government Association. The Student Sustainability Fund is governed by bylaws. SSF funded projects include updating the Museum of Natural Science, composing a pilot program for food recycling in union and dining halls, campus bike counting using Dero Zapp Technology, sending College of Agriculture students to a conference, farm-to-table cooking demonstrations for elementary students, electric charging stations, butterfly gardens, battery-powered landscape equipment, reducing food waste and feeding wildlife through black soldier fly larvae composting. For a full list of projects, LSU's SSF presentation and bylaws at <https://keeplouisianabeautiful.org/universitysustainabilitycoalition/>. Opportunities and challenges are keeping strong ongoing relationships, project maintenance, and communication.

At the next coalition meeting in January, members of SGA will be invited to attend and participate.

January 24, 10 - 11:15 a. m.

University Adopt-a-Meeting: Tulane

Meeting Topic and Presenter: Power of SGA

March 27, 10 - 11:15 a. m.

University Adopt-a-Meeting: All

Meeting Topic and Presenter: Grassroots to Institutionalizing Sustainability

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.