**Zero Waste SWATeam**

Attendees: Morgan White (F&S), Tim Stark (Faculty & Chair), Robert McKim (Faculty), Leon Liebenberg (Faculty), Aaron Finder (Purchasing), Shantanu Pai (ZW Coordinator), Madalyn Liberman (Student), Julija Sakutyte (clerk)  
Date: 27 March 2020  
Time: 3:30PM

*Agenda*

March Formal Recommendations

America To Go Catering Sustainability Criteria

Aluminum Vending Machine Replacement

Student Sustainability Ambassadors

April Agenda

Recommendations for next round of submissions?

Any pertinent topics?

Staff/faculty Ethics training update?

*Meeting*

**March Formal Recommendations**

* Due 3 April 2020

America To Go Catering Sustainability Criteria

* T. Stark is receiving help from S. Pai
* Not submitted by official SP20 deadline

Aluminum Vending Machine Replacement

* This recommendation seeks to replace plastic packaging in vending machines with aluminum packaging.
  + Justification lies in the inefficiency of the current plastic recycling system, such that each bale makes a penny a pound. This is certainly losing the university capital recovered.
    - The long-term viability of the system depends on it being cost-neutral, which this recommendation would assist with.
  + There are concerns about the impact and environmental implications of replacing plastic vs. aluminum. While aluminum has a higher market return value than plastic, and is recycled at a higher rate, it has higher input requirements required.
    - The current zero waste system boundaries exclude the input values of the waste stream.
    - Aluminum can be more efficiently recycled (meaning that a recycled aluminum can is returned into the cycle and can be made into a new can). Plastic degrades over time.
      * The long-term energy inputs are lower for aluminum due to the longer lifespan of aluminum.
      * Additionally, aluminum can be recycled locally whereas plastic is recycled externally.
* This recommendation also serves as incentive to support Purchasing negotiations for sustainability initiatives.
* This recommendation brings up the idea of metrics. Where should the SWAT stop with their considerations? If we conduct a life cycle analysis for aluminum vs. plastic for this recommendation, then the team should be consistent with all further recommendations. Additionally, this requires input on how the financial side of recommendations would work.
  + Could a tax/fee be utilized to support these initiatives?
    - This charge would cause consideration with potential replacements.
    - There is also a Purchasing side to consider.
* Many universities are considering alternatives to single-use plastics.
* Supporting alternatives to single-use plastics is a way to support our initiatives to create a zero-waste campus culture.

Student Sustainability Ambassadors

* This recommendation is widely supported by SWAT members.
* M. Moore will be integral to supporting the course. She has offered some level of direct involvement in the course.
* Speaking to the Education SWAT can be helpful and getting a vote of support should be obtained.

**April Agenda**

* Only the Student Sustainability Ambassadors will be submitted for the official SP20 deadline.
  + All other recommendations will be discussed further.