

## August 2013 – Green Labs Meeting

### Attendees:

Spencer Nelson  
Ashley Kiser  
Aaron Schmidt  
Cathy Brennan

Chris MacNevin  
Christina Lebonville  
Kristin Blank-White  
Thomas Lentz

- Introductions
- Due to meeting location restraints, a new time for meeting was proposed.
  - Options are to limit the meeting to one hour, push it back to 9:30, or change meeting place
  - It was determined that meetings are more efficient when kept to an hour. General agreement from committee and decision to effectively change meeting time to 10AM-11AM, and continue meeting in Murray Hall.
- The issue of solvent cans in labs was discussed. It was pointed out that many people don't know what to do with solvent cans, but Cathy said only one area (Venable-Murray) is taking part in the pilot project. The rest of the campus is on hold due to issues with pick up schedules, etc. EHS will let the committee know when they are ready to expand to Gen Med and the Pharmacy School. OWRR is willing to help with an education and outreach plan when the time comes.
- The possibility of recycling the tubes containing silica gel which are used for chromatography was discussed. Due to the issue of hazardous waste, as well as difficulty in handling the tubes to remove contamination, it will need to be looked into further.
- Cathy and Amy's capstone meeting was discussed.
  - They've met with their class.
  - 7 students in capstone class and all are excited about the project.
  - Their first meeting was structured with introductions and talking about what's coming up, as well as their overall agenda. Amy and Cathy will be meeting with the class every Tuesday, and occasional Thursdays if students request it. Susan Capwell, a sixth year PhD student will also regularly meet with them for their work which maps out their project within the first three weeks of the semester,
  - The student's reading samples were passed around. They'll be doing more research on their own.
  - None of the students are science majors so they'll all be coming at the issue from a different perspective.
  - They'll get safety glasses on first tour, as well as lab coats, safety equipment. They've been advised to wear long pants and closed toed shoes.
- The issue of what specifically to speak about while taking students on tours was brought up.
  - The question was raised on whether to emphasize the materials used, power usage, different types of chemicals or hazardous waste, etc.
  - It was established that students are supposed to drive what they want to do after going through the tour, so a good overview about all of the topics will be given.

- There will be no formal deliverables after the tour, but the students will be giving a presentation at the end of the semester which the committee can attend.
- Spencer elaborated about the different groups he's involved with on campus. Environmental Affairs Committee (EAC) is primarily involved with outreach while working to get athletics to reduce Styrofoam used. He's also involved with RESPC, which takes up \$4 from each student. These funds will allow them to initiate various solar projects on campus buildings.
- The topic of Styrofoam recycling is discussed.
  - Labs across campus are storing the Styrofoam and would like to recycle it. There's the possibility of coordinating a "Styrofoam drive" annually or as fit. This will be discussed in the future.
- The possibility of touring a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) to see recycling in action was discussed.
  - The Sonoco plant in Raleigh regularly allows groups to learn more.
  - There are many MRF videos on YouTube that elaborate on the process of recycling at the MRFs
- Next Meeting:
  - Discuss sending out survey, lab closeout letter, and capstone class. Amy will not be at the Sept. meeting, Cathy Brennan will be leading it.