

19 April 2009

Dear Southern Nazarene University Members of the Presidential Cabinet:

My name is Stephen Vandervort, and I am writing on behalf of the Task Force for Campus Stewardship and Sustainability (TFCSS), formed this semester by the Student Government Association of Southern Nazarene University. This Task Force is comprised of like-minded students, faculty, and staff that have a dream for Southern Nazarene University to continue to become increasingly aware of the ways in which the Campus affects the environment, both on a local scale and a global scale. Furthermore, the TFCSS hold the conviction that if we participate together in alleviating the strain that the School has on the environment, it would be no act short of participating in theological stewardship of the Creator's creation. With that being said, the TFCSS is writing to you today with five interests in mind:

- 1) Establish a "Green Fund" for the campus of Southern Nazarene University. This "Green Fund" would be made possible by a \$10 per semester student fee added to the final School bill to all traditional students at the undergraduate level. This "Green Fund" would create the support system needed to actively research and implement "green" projects, equipment, and research. (Our sister school, Point Loma Nazarene University has successfully implemented this, as well.¹) However, the TFCSS recognizes that in order for these "green" tasks to be executed properly and consistently over the near future, at least a part-time staff member would be hired, using the "Green Fund" as the pool to which pull their salary from. In addition, money from the budgets of the Office of Spiritual Development and the Office of Student Development would go to help assist to the "Green Fund," which in turn would assist in the payment of the part-time staff member. The Vice Presidents of the respective offices would determine these budget-assisting funds. This person, titled something to the effect of "Campus Stewardship and Sustainability Coordinator" would oversee campus-wide projects, including but not limited to coordinating recycling projects such

- as RecycleMania, the research and implement of alternative energy systems, and coordination and oversight of the existing “Eco-Superheros” student club currently under the supervision of the Dr. Brad Strawn and the Office of Spiritual Development.
- 2) Research and implement sustainable technology in the new residential hall that will eventually replace Garey Hall. The TFCSS recognizes this opportunity of building a new campus residential hall as being one where Southern Nazarene University can demonstrate its commitment to “green” technology and sustainability to prospective and current students, alumni, and the surrounding community. The TFCSS strongly encourages those who are charged with overseeing the building and development of the new building on campus to be sensitive to the ways in which the building can offset its environmental footprint. A host of ideas for the new residential hall can be found attached to this document.
 - 3) Research and implement alternative fuel sources for on-campus machinery and vehicles. The TFCSS recognizes the substantial amount of fuel used by on-campus machinery and vehicles, and encourages the research and implementation of a renewable and abundant fuel source for eligible machinery and vehicles. For instance, our sister school, Mount Vernon Nazarene University has a system currently in-place to reuse waste vegetable oil (WVO) as fuel for machinery. Since December 2007, MVNU has used biodiesel in its snow and lawn equipment, generators, a campus bus and other vehicles. The University can generate 90 gallons in a 24-hour time period and saves over \$2 on each gallon.ⁱⁱ
 - 4) Develop and encourage ways in which faculty and staff offices, departments and buildings can imagine and implement ways in which they can work to become more sustainable and better stewards of the environment in their local area. This might include undertaking a recycling effort beyond paper in their area, reduce the amount of paper used in offices, and even setting budgeted/fundraised departmental money aside per each allocation towards “green” projects sponsored by the department, in coordination with the hired Campus Stewardship and Sustainability Coordinator.

5) With the implementation of the above interests, please have Dr. Loren Gresham, President of Southern Nazarene University consider signing the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment within a period of time in tandem with the hiring and implementation of the Campus Stewardship and Sustainability Coordinator. The TFCSS recognizes the ambitious nature of the Presidents Climate Commitment, and realizes that this it is not a commitment to be taken lightly. At the same time, the TFCSS recognizes the substantial amount of support for “green” measures to be taken on the campus of Southern Nazarene University by current students, faculty and staff. By having the University President join with the other 623 signatories to date, Southern Nazarene University can show its commitment to the sustained efforts of environmental stewardship and sustainability. It is the conviction of the TFCSS that not only would this be attractive press for the University, it would certainly be attractive to prospective students as they make the difficult decision of choosing a University that is right for them.

This Task Force is made up of individuals whose conviction it is that Southern Nazarene University has been doing good work in the area of environmental stewardship and sustainability, but at the same time, recognizes that there is further progress to be made. We recognize and applaud the existing efforts that are on-campus to recycle, reduce and reuse. Ron Lester and the Facilities Management team have been adapting and growing sustainable ways of working quite gracefully. They have been cooperative with “green” efforts on campus that overlap areas of their oversight, and have been supportive resource for developing new “green” measures. The TFCSS recognizes the “Eco-Superheroes” student club, developed by Dr. Brad Strawn and under the leadership of Leslie Vandervort. It is because of their efforts that we have paper recycling on the campus of Southern Nazarene University today. Furthermore, we recognize the efforts of individuals on campus that take the time to reduce, reuse and recycle products in their local area.

By submitting this letter to you, the Members of the Presidential Cabinet of Southern Nazarene University, we, the students, faculty and staff of Southern Nazarene University, are signaling our desire to see the above-listed five interests come to fruition. Furthermore,

we dedicate ourselves to seeing that the good works of the above five items list are completed with our help. We recognize that this commitment from you, the Members of the Presidential Cabinet of Southern Nazarene University, is one that is substantial and outspoken by nature, and we, the signed, are prepared to stand up and voice our convictions regarding environmental stewardship and sustainability as it relates to the campus and mission of Southern Nazarene University. We thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Stephen Vandervort
Task Force for Campus Stewardship and Sustainability
Student Body President, Southern Nazarene University

ⁱ http://www.pointloma.edu/News/Headlines/Students_Vote_to_Pay__Green__Fees_at_PLNU.htm

ⁱⁱ <http://www.mvnu.edu/news/PressReleases/0809/butter.asp>