

I am part of an organization which is spending your money. Because of this fact, my organization feels that it is important to communicate what we are doing with it.

The organization about which I am talking is the Student Sustainability Committee, a group of students charged with spending the student fee for sustainability. Our creation is an epic tale, full of deception, broken hearts, and eventually victory over the forces of obstinance. Suffice it to say that we grew out of a select committee formed by last year's Student Government President, Tyler Montell. This select committee wrote a constitution and selected the members of the SSC from diverse organizations which truly represent the voice of all students at UK. After this group was put in place, the UK Board of Trustees and the Council for Post-Secondary Education in Frankfort agreed to put a Environmental Student Fee in place, charging the SSC with spending it.

Since the beginning of the semester, we have been hard at work ensuring that your money is used in a way which benefits all students; providing opportunities for gifted students to do meaningful work, giving UK students the chance to see renowned speakers, and supplementing programs on campus which actually work.

In September, the SSC partnered with SAB to bring Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. to campus. Mr. Kennedy gave UK students and Lexington residents a lot of food for thought. The event was a success, and we were proud to have worked with SAB to bring such an important public figure to campus to give a great lecture.

Also this year, SSC has funded an internship. Stephanie Hopkins, a Biology and Anthropology Senior, has been working on a storm water mitigation project which may eventually place rain barrels across UK's campus. By the end of the year, we will have an operation pilot site at the Gaines Center on North Campus.

Finally, we have also partnered with the Resident Student Association and Student Government to expand the Wildcat Wheels Bicycle Library. This bike fleet program has been immensely popular across campus since its inception, and this year we were able to liquidate the city of Lexington's yellow bike library for a very small fee, which we were happy to take part in paying. These bicycles will give several students a chance to take part in a mode of transportation which is both healthy and good for the environment.

We were busy last semester, and we aren't about to stop. We already have another intern selected to work on a renewable energy project, and we have plans to bring author Jeff Biggers to campus to speak about coal and Appalachia.

We hope that you approve of the way which we are spending your money. However you feel, we would love to hear from you. Do you have a great idea about what SSC should do next? Do you want to know how you can get involved with sustainability on campus? Do you just want to let us know how we are doing? Feel free to send us an e-mail at ukysustain@gmail.com. The only reason the SSC exists is because of students. You are our bosses. We would love to hear from you.