

UF Sustainability Committee - Minutes

2/17/2022, 12:30-2:30

Virtual Zoom meeting

Attendees:

Members: Ariel Pomputius, John Duncan, Jodi Chase, Flora Iff-Noel, Nancy Clark, Jeff Boissoneault, Elizabeth Mc Alister, Andrew Zimmerman, Cindy Craig, Matt Williams, Leslie Thiele

Excused: Allen Masters, Jessica-Jean Stonecipher, Leah Locascio

Guests/Non-Members: Kaylee August, Liz Storn, Hannah Ulloa

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 12:30 (**Ariel Pomputius**, Chair)

Approval of Minutes

Jodi Chase moved to approve the minutes from January 20, 2022. The motion was seconded by **Flora Iff-Noel**.

Old Business

Vice Chair - Ariel will stay on as Chair for another year
Jeff has agreed to serve as vice chair next year

ESG - No news – Budget Council had to discuss COVID-related support at the last meeting. ESG proposal will be next month

CEP – Faculty Senate approved CEP resolution. Mark Helms was present and able to provide more information. There will be a faculty town hall, date unknown. Information will be provided to the Sustainability Committee when it is available.

New Business

UF Climate Action Plan updates

[Draft Implementation Structure review for input](#)

Hannah Ulloa presented an overview of the Draft Implementation Structure, highlighting that we are looking for cohesion and collaboration in implementation. The structure is also a way to provide structure for future updates to the Climate Action Plan

The Sustainability Committee was asked to identify gaps and strengths, and a discussion was held.

A discussion was held about how the structure of committees might work and how the committee mandates might be able to be updated to incorporate climate action. **Andy Zimmerman** wondered if it would make sense to have a person with specific climate action expertise added to each committee. **Ariel Pomputius** wondered about whether the Office of Sustainability would shoulder most of the workload or how it would be divided. It was noted that the Climate Action Plan (CAP) is a campus-wide plan, and responsibility would be divided across the implementation committee.

Matt Williams wondered how we see the Sustainability Committee contributing given that sustainability is bigger than climate? It was agreed that we don't want the Sustainability Committee to become just the Climate Committee. Both **Andy** and **Ariel** like the idea of Climate Action being a subcommittee with a specific mission and end date. **Jeff Boissoneault** suggested that there's a lot of overlap between proposed council & Sustainability Committee. He likes the idea of having representative(s) from Sustainability Committee on the new Council, perhaps with the Sustainability Committee providing guidance/assistance? **Hannah** asked for examples of similar structure on campus.

Suggestions included:

- Faculty Senate
 - Fac Senate steering committee
- Committee on Committees
- Infrastructure Council – representatives from other committees present
- Architecture Review Committee

Ariel asked if there would be more experts on the proposed Climate Action Collaborative Council (CACC)? **Hannah** responded that there would be a mix of implementers and experts. We want to maintain the inclusive structure that has fueled and maintained CAP so far, so will likely include students & people who are passionate.

Ariel suggested that annual summary reports can be quite tough to stay on top of. Should try to prioritize/highlight the numbers that people are most interested in for transparency and to show that action is happening.

[Draft Goals and Strategies](#)

Hannah discussed the draft goals and strategies which were sent and will be discussed by the working groups tomorrow (February 18) in a meeting. We're still working on refinement and prioritization. We are currently targeting the end of Spring semester for release of the Climate Action Plan. The Master Tracking Document (link above) will form the bulk of the plan when it is released, and we are looking for input.

Please feel free to provide input on both items at any time.

Conservation Area Landscape Management planning process

Kaylee August presented about the current process to update the Conservation Area Land Management Plans that is being undertaken by the Office of Sustainability and Planning, Design and Construction. There is a steering committee that is visiting all the conservation areas across campus over the next 3 months to provide feedback and suggestions which will then be compiled and presented to committees and town halls to draft new CALM plans. The goal is to have finalized plans in 2023. Additionally, biodiversity inventories will be completed for the conservation areas, and are expected to take approximately one year. Requests for proposals will be sent to departments next week. The Office of Sustainability will keep the Sustainability Committee updated through the process.

Andy asked about the overall goal of the CALM planning process. **Kaylee** replied that the CALM plans were created in 2005 and are due for an update with the overall goal of managing our conservation lands better and developing an implementation plan for continual improvement. **Andy** asked whether additional lands will be added to the protected lands. **Matt** replied that changing the designation of land is part of the Campus Master Plan that is updated every five years. **Ariel** also replied that it is also to solidify the boundaries given some of the questions that have recently come up. Another question was raised about who manages off-campus lands. **Matt** replied that there has been some discussion among the Offset & Finance Work Group in the CAP about off campus holdings. Otherwise, the holding entity is in charge, but there isn't currently an overarching group to provide recommendations for management.

Ariel asked how the Sustainability Committee can help? **Kaylee** replied that there will be a town hall next August where we would especially appreciate input. **Matt** also asked for input about which classes are already using different conservation areas so we can catalog & centralize information about these uses. It would provide us with a better indication of how important these areas are.

Champions for Change

Hannah announced that Champions for Change is currently open for nominations (Feb 1-28) on the Office of Sustainability website. Nominated people/groups for sustainability will be presented to the Sustainability Committee at the March meeting for voting. Hannah will compile the submitted information into a Google Form for committee members to rank the nominations. The Committee will then vote for the top 5 nominations.

Note that the goal is to have shorter submissions this year!

Cindy Craig noted that it is a lot of fun, and great submissions – hard to narrow it down.

Roundtable Updates

Ariel mentioned that the HSC Libraries are focusing on passive programming at the moment. They are creating postcard sized guide to 5 highlighted local flora/fauna

Izzy McAlister noted that the Facilities Services Water/wastewater shop is ramping up the Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) program on campus, including providing education on what happens when these things are put into the wastewater system. She noted that when they are, they have to add a lot of strong chemicals into the system to deal with it, which is then hard on the entire system! **Matt** suggested that this seems particularly important for Greek houses and residential halls. The Office of Sustainability will link Izzy into conversations with Gator Dining. **Izzy** noted that this also applies to our home systems. She also mentioned that UF is definitely having to break up grease balls before they become an issue in the system, and the biggest issues come from the hospital – mop heads, sheets, various medical supplies.

Campus Earth Week programming to be announced soon. The Office of Sustainability is partnering with Thompson Earth Systems Institute this year for programming.

Ariel noted that the tentative plan for the summer is to keep the meetings on the calendar in case things arise, although we won't expect to use them.

Meeting Adjourned

Andy Zimmerman moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:35pm. **Flora Iff-Noell** seconded the motion.