

UF Sustainability Committee - Minutes

April 21, 2022, 12:30-2:30

Virtual Zoom meeting

Attendees:

Members: Ariel Pomputius, Jodi Chase, Flora Iff-Noel, Nancy Clark, Jeff Boissoneault, Elizabeth McAlister, Andrew Zimmerman, Matt Williams, Kristin Joys, Cindy Craig, H  l  ne Huet, Jessica-Jen Stonecipher

Excused: Leah Locascio, Leslie Thiel

Guests/Non-Members: Liz Storn

Call to Order

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

Old Business

ESG – **Ariel** said that the Budget Committee meeting for April was cancelled.

Central Energy Plant update & Discussion – Ariel provided updates and a summary of the discussion about the Central Energy Plant (CEP) from the Infrastructure Council meeting and UF Faculty Senate Town Hall, and asked for suggestions about what else the Sustainability Committee could do to ensure that sustainability is incorporated into whatever the final plan is.

Andy Zimmerman suggested a teach in where interested faculty, staff and students could be provided with the details used to determine the best options to address thermal loads on campus. The idea was supported by **Jessica-Jean Stonecipher** and **Jeff Boissoneault**.

Jessica- Jean also asked what the Sustainability Committee can be advocating for now that would help us avoid a similar situation in the future.

Andy recommended that we install solar on campus up to our 4MW limit as soon as possible.

It was also suggested by several committee members that the Sustainability Committee express discontent regarding the lack of transparency provided through the Town Hall meeting.

New Business

Sustainability Plan Listening Session

Liz Storn provided a brief overview about what a sustainability plan is, the history of UF sustainability plans, and why the Office of Sustainability is starting the process of developing a new sustainability plan now. She noted that during the process of developing the Climate Action Plan, campus and community members brought up many great ideas that did not directly address greenhouse gas emissions or climate action but would better be addressed in a sustainability plan. Additionally, with President Fuchs retiring at the end of the 21/22 academic year, this is an opportunity to present the values and goals of the community around sustainability to the new President and administration.

The last UF Sustainability Plan was developed in 2009, with an update and progress report in 2011. Fourteen topic areas were included in the 2009 Plan.

Liz noted that the Sustainability Committee is the first group on campus to hear that we are starting work on a Sustainability Plan, and are the first group to provide input into what is important to them. She noted that the Office of Sustainability is in the very beginning of the process of information gathering and organizing, and it may be 6 months before the actual process starts.

Using Jamboard, the Sustainability Committee provided thoughts and ideas in the following areas:

- Things we are doing well
- Things we should do more
- Things we should start doing
- Things we should stop doing

The Sustainability Committee also provided suggestions and comments on things to consider as we start the process.

Recognition of members whose term on the committee has ended

Ariel recognized and thanked the following members for their terms.

- **Cindy Craig**
- **John Duncan**
- **Kristin Joys**
- **Leah Locascio**
- **Casey Mason**
- **Andy Zimmerman**

Andy Zimmerman and **Kristin Joys** noted that they would be interested in continuing to participate, and a discussion of the Faculty Senate and Presidential appointee processes was held.

Roundtable updates

Office of Sustainability

A successful set of Earth Week events was held, and a summary is on the Sustainability website: <https://sustainable.ufl.edu/2022/04/15/the-return-of-campus-earth-week-highlights-positivity-and-collaboration/>

Additionally, the Climate Action Plan 2.0 is wrapping up, with a summary being developed for upper-level administrators to provide input and approval before final documents are prepared and shared. **Liz** noted that opportunities for input will continue in the fall, and that this is intended to be a “living” document that changes and grows as actions and goals are achieved and things change on campus.

Liz also shared the following event for the UF Field & Fork Farm Open House on Friday April 22 from 4-6pm: <https://fb.me/e/30iRQ5pGL>

Ariel – UF Libraries is having an Earth Day event tomorrow, April 22 about Florida-Friendly Landscaping. The link for more information is: <https://libcal.uflib.ufl.edu/event/8983928>

Meeting Adjourned

Andy motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:25pm. **Jeff** seconded the motion.