

UF Sustainability Committee - Minutes

10/21/2021, 12:30-2:30

Virtual Zoom meeting

Attendees:

Members:

Ariel Pomputius, Flora Iff-Noel, Leah Locascio, H  l  ne Huet, Andrew Zimmerman, Jodi Chase, Nancy Clark, Izzy McAlister, Meredith Beaupre, Jeff Boissoneault, John Duncan, Matt Williams, Kristin Joys, Leslie Thiele, Allen Masters, Cindy Craig

Guests/Non-Members:

Nico Cellinese, Hannah Ulloa, Liz Storn, Andrew Winden, Wendell Porter, Corey Farmer

Call to Order:

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

Old Business:

ESG Investing

Welcome by **Ariel Pomputius** to Andrew Winden,

Presentation by **Andrew Winden**: *ESG Disclosure & Investing* (attached)

- Discussion with **Andrew Winden** regarding what the Sustainability Committee might want to include in the request for transparency and ESG standards. The main suggestion is to invest in companies that are making an effort to be aware of the risk of climate change. Other suggestions included looking at growth companies and looking at entrepreneurial companies as these are areas where there is the potential for the biggest impact but also the biggest risk.

Welcome by Matt to **Georges Dyer** with the [Intentional Endowments Network](#)

Presentation by **Georges Dyer**: *The Intentional Endowments Network* (attached)

- Discussion with **Georges Dyer** about what some of the other big, state universities are doing, including a Net Zero Portfolio Commitment and DEI Investing principles. Other ideas that were discussed included having ESG donor options, ESG investment options for faculty/staff retirement funds, and ways to get additional transparency in UFICO.

New Business:

Central Energy Plant

- Discussion with **Wendell Porter** about the proposed new Central Energy Plant, potential alternatives and suggestions. Suggestions from Wendell included major re-lamp of all campus with LED bulbs and major retro-commissioning of buildings on campus to improve energy efficiency and reduce the demand for a new Central Energy Plant; provide access to UF energy data to faculty, staff and researchers on campus; buy electricity; build a modular steam plant that can be decommissioned by segment as campus efficiency improves and the need for steam is eliminated by sector; build solar on campus up to the current 4MW limit as allowed by the PSC, and look at ways to add additional solar plus storage capacity.
- The Sustainability Committee and guests discussed what could be done by the committee to get information about the Central Energy Plant to more people on campus, as many were surprised with the recent information about the plant. It was discussed that the goal could be to slow down the current process to evaluate/re-evaluate other options. However, there will need to be an alternative to the steam plant that is being decommissioned in 2027. It was discussed that perhaps the Sustainability Committee should draft a resolution to reevaluate the plans to be sent both to the Infrastructure Council and VP Reynolds. There is concern about how fast we can do this, as the BOT will vote on another aspect of the plant at their December meeting.
- **Matt Williams** noted that this plant has been in discussion for approximately 5 years and voted on by the Board of Trustees approximately 3 times over those 5 years. The most recent vote in June was solely to require that the plant be constructed as a Public/Private partnership instead of UF self-

financing with state bonds. Currently, UF is soliciting for Statements of Qualifications for interested parties (due November 10, 2021), to shortlist qualified Respondents who may then respond to the Intent to Negotiate (ITN), a draft of which will be issued in January 2022, and the final ITN will be issued in June 2022 with responses due in September 2022. This means that there is still time to influence the plans for the CEP. To date, the UF Office of Sustainability has been minorly involved with the project, helping make sure that any sustainability claims are not overstated, and trying to promote alternative energy solutions. Sustainability Committee has not been involved up to this point.

- Additional discussion occurred about what a recommendation could include, such as what the infrastructure remodel of campus & buildings will look like, and a discussion of the timeline for preparing a recommendation. It was determined that a draft recommendation will be presented to the Committee at the November meeting for review.

- **Ariel Pomputius** put out a call for subcommittee members. **Jeff Boissoneault** agreed to chair the committee, with the following members: **Andrew Zimmerman, Leah Locascio, H  l  ne Huet, and Wendell Porter.**
 - o **Matt Williams** noted that there are also opportunities for Student Government to be discussing this as well, and Faculty Senators can bring this up at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

ESG Investing

Ariel Pomputius put out a call for subcommittee members. **Ariel Pomputius** agreed to chair the committee with the following members: **Jodi Chase**

Approval of Minutes

Minutes will all be approved next month

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm by Motion: **H  l  ne Huet** and seconded by **Jeff Boissoneault.**