

## UF Sustainability Committee – Minutes

3/16/2023, 12:30-2:30pm

Virtual Zoom meeting

### **Attendance**

**Members:** Ariel Pomputius, Angie Brown, Jodi Chase, Nancy Clark, John Duncan, H  l  ne Huet, Flora Iff-Noel, Mariela Pajuelo Rubina, Jessica-Jen Stonecipher, Matt Williams, Stephan Willias

**Excused:** Jeff Boissoneault, Leslie Thiel, Meredith Beaupre, Jessica Sheffield, Sofia Buonanno, Sidney Ruedas

**Guests/Non-Members:** Liz Storn, Rachel Mandell, Kaylee August

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:30PM by **Ariel Pomputius**, chair.

### *Approval of Minutes*

**Stephan Willias** moved to approve the minutes from February 16, 2023. The motion was seconded by **Flora Iff-Noel**.

### **Old Business**

#### *Champions for Change*

<https://sustainable.ufl.edu/news-events/champions-for-change-awards/>

#### [2023 Nominations Summary](#)

#### [2023 Nominee Review Form](#)

**Nancy Clark** had a question about the voting for C4C. **Liz Storn** mentioned that the voting was a precursor and further discussion would proceed the voting.

**John Duncan** had questions about the connection with the Save McCarty Woods group and the McCarty Woods Restoration team. **Matt Williams** mentioned that the Save McCarty Woods group was a student group and the restoration effort is separate from the student groups. **Matt** will share the previous McCarty Woods award link to distinguish the two groups. **Jodi Chase** said that had she known she probably wouldn't have voted for the group. **Mariela Pajuelo Rubina** mentioned that her spouse is a part of the group and that it is heavily led by faculty. The group incorporates younger students, as well. **Flora Iff-Noel** asked why we had so few submissions this year. **Matt** mentioned that we've seen low submissions for awards across campus.

**Ariel** wanted to discuss the balance between students, faculty, and staff getting awards. She posed the question as to whether the winning groups are balanced well. **Jessica-Jean Stonecipher** wants to award an undergraduate the award. **John** mentioned that Solar Gator is an undergraduate group. **H  l  ne Huet**

states that we have recognized individual undergraduates in the past, if there were worries about not doing it this year. **Ariel** liked Solar Gator because of their connections to students and encouraging interactions with energy. She liked the community aspect. **Nancy** likes the Solar Gator group because of the community aspects within their engagement. **Ariel** said that if she was going to vote for an undergraduate, Shannon was doing more outreach with the community. She wished Shannon would elaborate on her collaboration with 40 organizations. **Mariela** mentioned the significance of personal growth with the UF community so interactions with the community falls within the award. She said the CWC impacts the Gainesville community but doesn't see where it actually impacts the UF community. **Ariel** mentioned that the Gainesville community is heavily connected with the UF community but liked that **Mariela** brought up that point for all to consider. **Flora** stated that they were a top pick for the award and their work is crucial to UF/the community. **Jessica-Jean** likes the undergraduates but is comfortable moving forward with the individuals selected. **John** feels comfortable with giving McCarty Woods the award but that other awards should not be given in the future.

**Ariel** called a vote to accept the results of the Google form selection.

- 9 Yes / 0 No - Unanimously accept the C4C award nominees.

**Mariela** asked how many nominations we usually receive. **Liz** mentioned that we asked to reduce the length of the nomination submission. In 2021, we had 28 nominees for wellness & sustainability combined. In 2022, we had 10 nominations, so this year is pretty on par. **Matt** said that our office tries to create nominations and we've not done that as much this year. He mentioned that Wellness is trying to figure out their engagement with campus in the future. **Ariel** wanted to try next year to have more graduate submissions and called the committee to think about incorporating them more into C4C. **Matt** said that the OoS is keeping a list but the committee can request different groups that should be considered for the next round. **Hélène** wanted to tweak the wording for the award to outline social justice and equity more or make it more obvious to nominators. **Ariel** said that we could make it more obvious that sustainability is broader than nature and the environment in following years. **Matt** stated that it's been 10+ years since the wording has been updated and the committee can update that after this cycle.

### **New Business**

#### **Office of Sustainability Updates**

**Matt** mentioned the comprehensive Lake Alice Watershed Management plan to look at the management of the watershed holistically. Consultant selected in April with high levels of engagement for the campus and stakeholders.

**Rachel Mandell** mentioned the CALM plan will go through the committees for approval. The LVL and LUFPC committee will approve the plan and updated boundaries.

**Matt** mentioned that we are close to approval for the CAP. We were asked to hold conversations around approval for next week. Implementation will be overseen by a CAP coordinator.

**Matt** said that OoS will collaborate with dining to discuss sustainability goals for the future.

**Liz** mentioned two sustainability positions - Bike Coordinator and Outreach Coordinator position. **Ariel** asked if outsiders will be invited to the presentations for the new candidates. **Matt** said the bike coordinator position is an internal candidate. The outreach position will be open for the sustainability committee to provide input.

**Ariel** encouraged the Sustainability Committee to attend the C4C Ceremony on April 18th in the evening. Details coming soon.

### **Roundtable Updates**

**Ariel** talked about Matt and Mark Helms presentation to the budget council about CEP and solar possibilities on campus, CALM, and the Lake Alice Watershed Management Plan. **Matt** said that the new garage solar will move forward due to new tax breaks for renewable energy. 1.4 MW of solar on that parking garage of the 4 MW limit. The Data Science & Information Technology (DSIT) project (<http://www.hka.nyc/uf-dsit-building>) will have solar on it, as well.

**Stephan Willias** updated the committee on BATS Green Labs Committee website. Disseminating checklists to different labs and moving forward with working groups to engage faculty and staff. **Ariel** would like Stephan to present to the committee on the Green Labs process in the fall.

**Hélène** told the committee that you can check out a plant at the library (<https://librarywest.uflib.ufl.edu/services-resources/plant-yourself-and-study-program/>) to study but that plants aren't taken care of when checked out because of incidents during check out. She loves the idea of having this as a resource but that users need to be more careful when they care for the plants. **Ariel** wondered if there was a connection with horticultural students to care for the plants.

**Jessica-Jean** saw new covered bike parking at Tigert and wanted to know if there were other plans for covered bike parking. **Matt** said that it is in the Landscape Master Plan to do more bike parking. **Rachel** said that some sustainable certifications receive credits for covered bike parking and that the Tigert covered parking was a part of the new Gateway project. **Matt** said that requesting covered parking at other buildings is more complicated because of barriers. **Rachel** mentioned that demand data would be important to find other areas where bike parking would be useful.

**Angie Brown** is working on the new MyUFL portal. Additionally, the UF at Play photo contest will be coming up and will remind the committee.

**Ariel** is picking up the wellness activities within the libraries. Libraries will provide snacks and cafes of water infused with fruit. Healthy snacks are provided. However, they are wrapped and not super sustainable. Libraries are trying to do events connected to the holidays.

**Mariela** had a question on sustainable event certifications. **Liz** shared the [sustainable events guide](#) in the chat. Events can receive sustainable event certifications along with the resource guide.

**Hélène** will remain the Welfare Council Chair next year and will roll off the Sustainability Committee this year but wants to stay connected with the committee should something fall under wellness.

**Meeting Adjourned**

**Angie** motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:40 pm. **Hélène** seconded the motion.