

## UF Sustainability Committee – Minutes

11/16/2023, 12:30-2:30pm

Virtual Zoom meeting

### **Attendance**

**Members:** John Duncan, Jeanne Ewert, Scarlet Seymour, Jessica-Jean Stonecipher, Creed Greer, Mariela Pajuelo, Jodi Chase, Matt Williams, Leslie Thiele

**Excused:** Nancy Clark, Kristin Joys, Nina Rosenzweig, Andrew Zimmerman, Craig Money Penny, Flora Iff-Noel, Jessica Sheffield

**Absent:** Angie Brown

**Guests/Non-Members:** Liz Storn, Kaylee August, Corey Farmer, John Lawson, Dustin Stephany

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:31 PM by **Liz Storn**.

### **Introductions**

**Liz** initiated a round of introductions for **Dustin Stephany** so that he could meet all of the sustainability committee members.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Jodi Chase** moved to approve the minutes from October 19, 2023. The motion was seconded by **Jeanne Ewert**.

### **Sustainable Buildings Presentation**

**Dustin** presented on the Malachowsky Data Science Information Technology Building. The ribbon cutting ceremony occurred last week. However, the public will not have access to the building until December. **Dustin** presented a presentation containing project information and the Green Building approach LEED certification. The team worked hard to get this building from Gold LEED to Platinum LEED certified. Some of the highlights for the building are glare control called electrochromic glazing technology. It helps manage light and heat in the building during the day. The building is approximately 30% energy efficient. This building is the first solar-ready building on campus to have solar on the roof. Additionally, this building has indoor bicycle storage and diverted approximately 85% of the construction waste, exceeding expectations of approximately 70% diversion.

**Dustin** also mentioned the bird friendly glazing on the windows to address past bird strike issues. There might be better ways to address bird strikes. The glazing could impact the user experience in the building. **Dustin** spoke about the [UF Bird Window Collision Project](#). He would like to find ways to work with the committee. He mentioned the committee could document bird strikes on iNaturalist.

**John Duncan** asked about the inside bike racks and how they would be monitored. **Dustin** said that he was not sure about the university's plan to monitor usage of the bikes. He believes that the bike racks would be available to the building occupants. **John** asked about the green space landscaping plans

outside of the building. **Dustin** said that 10 year plans utilize the space for another building. He mentioned that oaks were planted outside the building.

**Corey Farmer** asked about policies that minimize lighting pollution on pathways. **Dustin** said that LEED considers the light spillage from the building and not necessarily paths. He mentioned that they do look at up lighting and mentioned the UF Campus Master Plan recommendations to reduce light pollution. The southwest corner of the building is an observatory area to view the night sky. Lighting will be managed for light pollution in the observatory.

**Liz** asked if this was a gold LEED standard building how much better would a platinum building be given the additional points. For example, 37% water efficiency and 30% energy-efficiency. **Dustin** said that the points from the building are on-par with other green building projects on campus - we strive for approximately 30% efficiency above standard on all projects using innovative technologies.

**Dustin** highlighted that this project could be the centennial certification. However, the student health center is also competing for that spot.

### Old Business

#### **STARS Update**

**Creed Greer** wanted to know about the committee's relationship to the STARS certification. **Liz** said that the committee helps with assistance on different credits. **Liz** said the OoS presents the gaps found to help initiate projects to increase credits in the future.

**Liz** said that the academic credits are the easiest for the committee to help. Specifically, campus as a living lab credits. The committee could input on some of the projects regarding these credits. **Creed** mentioned that he heard about projects and courses that might fit into that category at Quest. He said that he could help compile a list of these courses. **Jodi** also suggested the *Digital Twin project* by Dr. Raymond Issa.

**Liz** mentioned that **Jeanne** could help with credits on an open access policy within the libraries. **Jeanne** said there are a couple of open access initiatives for faculty submitting in open access journals and open access textbook initiatives for faculty to put together reading in their Canvas pages. She said she would connect **Liz** with these people.

**Liz** mentioned support for sustainability research and needing incentives for fellowship and mentor support for very specific groups on campus. **Jeanne** mentioned that there is a lot of stuff in the works that might address these credits in the future.

**Mariela Pajuelo** asked if **Liz** sent out a survey to different departments to cover those different credits. **Liz** said that she had not but would appreciate the committee's help spreading the word once a survey is ready.

**Matt Williams** mentioned that the committee can help pitch ideas for STARS and could increase engagement throughout the process.

**John** encouraged the committee to read the previous year's STARS report and that it might help cover things that the office might not know about.

### **Climate Action Plan**

**John Lawson** spoke about the different categories involved in the CAP and the structure of the plan.

**Liz** shared links to our climate action plan for them to review. **Matt** spoke about the future expansion of the ways the committee can be involved around that.

**Scarlet Seymour** suggested some improvements to the CAP webpage including a key or legend for the symbols on the website and outlining the price range signifying how much money should be dedicated towards the strategies. Additionally, she wanted to link information on the progress of each strategy. A lot of the work has already started and could be highlighted on the website. **John L** liked Scarlet's suggestions and said that we would add that to our list of things to do.

### **Pre-Consumer Compost**

**John D** mentioned trying to get back into pre-consumer composting waste in the dining halls and at the Reitz Union.

### **Green Building Performance Post Construction**

**Scarlet** mentioned building post occupancy projects performance. **Scarlet** said the committee could listen to a presentation annually to show the committee how they could help green buildings projects meet building operation standards. She said that the desktop audit for the buildings is still forthcoming. Jessica Jean said that she would be interested in hearing from facilities on those projects.

### **New Business**

#### **Champions for Change (C4C) 2024**

**Liz** mentioned that the C4C is an awards ceremony in April in collaboration with the health and wellness side of UF. In December, submissions will open. The sustainability committee will vote on the submitted nominees to be recognized. **Matt** mentioned that this is open for staff, faculty, and students. The Office of Sustainability is reevaluating how the campus would like to celebrate those working in the sustainability space on campus. How do we raise the profile and awareness of the projects highlighted? **Matt** would like to receive input on award ceremonies, as well. The committee would be interested in reviewing a submission form for C4C to streamline the submission. **John D** mentioned creating a more streamlined process that outlines the different projects that would be highly valued. **John D** would like

the submission to be brief for an initial review and then the office would reach out to the groups for more information.

### **City of Gainesville Climate Initiatives**

**Matt** mentioned that there are 10 working groups to address climate action in Gainesville. He said that more information is coming to incorporate the committee into the city's climate action work.

### **Office of Sustainability Updates**

**Liz** updated on the AASHE Conference Highlights and mentioned that there were a number of wonderful sessions regarding data dashboards and future sustainability planning. Each member spoke about their highlights and lessons learned from the different sessions.

**Liz** will provide links to AASHE and STARS again as a reminder to all committee members

**Matt** mentioned a resurgence in interest for waste management. Campus has a new campus recycling manager that started recently - Carmen.

**Matt** highlighted the community and counties interest in climate action planning and the opportunities that could open up for UF once these initiatives are being initiated.

### **Roundtable Discussion**

**Jeanne** wanted to discuss the DEI BOG initiatives, including the definition of activism and the use of climate action/green. **Matt** said that from the operational side of UF that we are monitoring and making sure that our operations are not considered activism. Danaya Wright, Chair of Faculty Senate sent a summary of the draft regulations passed by the Board of Governors to the faculty. **Creed** said that he did not think that it would be considered political or social activism. He thought that this committee could be impacted by the new policy that was proposed. **Matt** said that he feels hopeful about the future given President Sasse's interests in sustainability and innovation. **Matt** said that our office is being highly considerate of the correspondence with the committee. **Matt** said that C4C could be a great way to highlight those in the sustainability realm.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

**Scarlet** motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:47 pm. **Jodi** seconded the motion.