

UF Sustainability Committee – Minutes

2/15/2024, 12:30-2:30pm

Virtual Zoom meeting

Attendance

Members: Jodi Chase, John Duncan, Craig Moneypenny, Flora Iff-Noel, Mariela Pajuelo, Scarlet Seymour, Jessica Sheffield, Jessica-Jean Stonecipher, Leslie Thiele, Matt Williams, Andrew Zimmerman

Excused: Angie Brown, Jeanne Ewert, Kristin Joys, Nina Rosenzweig

Absent: Nancy Clark, Creed Greer

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:31 PM by **Andrew Zimmerman**.

Approval of Minutes

Andrew Zimmerman moved to approve the minutes from January 18, 2024. The motion was seconded by **Jodi Chase**.

New Business

Report from February Infrastructure Committee meeting

Matt Williams updated the committee on the last Infrastructure Council. The council talked about electric vehicles, scooters, and e-bikes and the potential fire risks of housing e-bike and scooters in buildings. Additionally, the discussed waste containers and plans to put in new containers that reduce waste contamination.

Old Business

Champions for Change

Liz Storn updated the committee on submissions for the Champions for Change nominations. There are 5 nominations for sustainability and about 15 for health & well-being. She asked the committee to help encourage more nominations for sustainability. **Andrew Zimmerman** asked how the committee could help with nominations. **Kaylee August** said that it would be nice to have their help with either students or student organizations doing good work on campus.

Office of Sustainability Updates

Kaylee told the committee to mark their calendars for the Champions for Change event which will be held in the O'Connell Center - Center Court Club on Wednesday April 10th from 4-6 pm.

Matt mentioned communications around the Lake Alice Watershed Management Plan. Engineers found that the injection wells were clogged. The screens have been cleaned. Lake levels are expected to drop

10-12 inches in the next couple of days. **Andrew** asked if the wells are injected into the groundwater and **Matt** answered that yes they are.

Matt also mentioned that we have a new bike assistant, named Brady Castellano, who will get the bike department program running again. He wants the committee to help brainstorm getting the information out to more departments. **Andrew** asked if the department gets to own the bike. **Matt** said they do at no cost to the department. **Matt** said that there will be a greater number of mobile units to fix and repair bikes at no charge. **Flora Iff-Noel** asked if there was still a waiting list for the department bikes. **Matt** said that we are currently reaching out to the departments on the waiting list to understand interest. He thinks that departments not on the waiting list should be reached by the end of spring. **Flora** asked how to request the bikes and **Matt** said that the Office of Sustainability is working on an online form that will be shared with the sustainability committee. **Andrew** asked if the committee could have preference and **Matt** said that they could be considered influencers for the department bike share program.

Breakout Rooms

Climate Action Plan Implementation

Andrew shared his screen on the Education & Research goals in the Climate Action Plan. **Matt** and **Andrew** mentioned that Goal A - Strategy A.1 - "Have a centralized database for students to more easily access information about climate change curriculum" was the best for the committee to help with. **Leslie Thiele** mentioned that there was no compiled or centralized list of courses. He has a list of compiled sustainability related courses that sustainability majors can take in his major. **Andrew** mentioned that the committee could recommend where to place the list once all of the sustainability syllabi are compiled. **Andrew** asked whether in the CAP 2.0 planning if there was an idea of where to put the compiled list. **Matt** said that it was something the group wanted a specific group to make decisions on/for. **Les** mentioned that there is a tool that students are already using <https://catalog.ufl.edu/course-search/>. **Jessica Sheffield** said that some of the searches produced courses that weren't sustainability related. **Jessica** said that it's hard to figure out which classes are missing, such as special topic classes. **Les** mentioned that it only does a keyword search in the brief course description and could miss some courses.

Jessica said that changes in the courses would go through through the curriculum committee. **Andrew** would like to reach out to the registrar to find a mechanism to create the tool. **Matt** mentioned that this may be a good use for AI to sort through different courses and resources. **Les** mentioned that it might be something to ask with the new provost. **Jessica** suggested using a rank system where all sustainability related courses go at the top and those less related are at the bottom.

Matt talked about our office compiling course syllabi for sustainability related courses. The Office of Sustainability is looking for those and downloading department by department. We use keywords as a first pass and then use humans to work through the unclear courses to decide if they are included or not. **Jessica** shared the College of Business syllabi here:

- <https://warrington.ufl.edu/graduate-current-students/graduate-course-syllabi/>
- <https://warrington.ufl.edu/undergraduate-current-students/academic-advising/course-syllabi/>

Mariela Pajuelo said that all syllabi should be in Canvas for courses. **Andrew** mentioned that the Office of Sustainability would like the committee to review for completeness. **Matt** said that it's difficult to find the syllabi because of the way people name the files in Canvas. However, he said the office hasn't reached out with this iteration and thought that would be a good avenue. **Andrew** thinks the first step is creating the list and then seeing if the search function is including the courses in the list. **Les** said that the only things that would be missed out on would be special topics and independent study that wouldn't be appropriate to include in the course catalog anyways.

Andrew wanted to know the deadline for the course compilation and **Matt** said the office should have them by the next committee meeting. **Andrew** wants the next steps to be looking at the course catalogs and having the committee divide departments to understand what was compiled. **Matt** wants the committee's help finding a database that has been assembled. **Matt** needs to access all syllabi and **Jessica** said that the Curriculum Committee would be the best group to start finding the compiled syllabi. **Andrew** listed the Registrar, Curriculum Committee, and the Office of Institutional Assessment to reach out to. **Matt** mentioned Casey Griffith (member of the Curriculum Committee) as someone who has been hard to reach but could be helpful in finding the information. **Andrew** and **Les** had a conversation about syllabi changing every semester. **Andrew** said that it's good to do this kind of cataloging to ensure a course is truly about climate change. **Andrew** would like Jessica to reach out to someone in the Curriculum Committee. Additionally, **Mariela** will contact the Office of Institutional Assessment, and **Andrew** will reach out to the Registrar and Brown Center for Leadership. **Andrew** also plans to talk to Carolyn Cox with the Climate Institute.

Sustainability Information to be shared with Department Heads, etc

Liz shared her screen to capture ideas for sustainability-related information that would be useful to share with Department Heads, who could then share to their departments. The following ideas were discussed:

- Sustainable Event Certification information
- UF Surplus for furniture, lab equipment, and lots of other things
- EH&S Chemical Swap program for free lab chemicals
- Departmental Bike Program information
- Information about participating in Green & Clean events
 - These could be scheduled as departmental activities for service, bonding, etc.
 - **Liz** mentioned that we used to have an Adopt a Swamp program that allowed departments to "adopt" different conservation areas.
- Alternative Transportation Options
 - Campus Connector
 - Zip Car
 - Commuter rides
 - Single-day parking passes for people who usually use alternative transportation
- Sustainability elective & courses to promote to students
- Green Cord program to promote to students
- Information about preferred (environmentally-friendly) products available through procurement and how to find them on Mr. Paper
 - Specifically suggestions for recycled-content paper
 - Address the myths about recycled content paper jamming copiers, etc.

- Alternatives to styrofoam
- Neutral UF Coalition
- Field & Fork Pantry and Farm
- Information about Green Buildings on campus
- Information about Tree Campus USA
- Information about Lake Alice & stormwater including information to not dump as it drains to Lake Alice
- How to sign up for the Office of Sustainability newsletter
 - A brief discussion was held about how this resource document would be different from the information shared in the Office of Sustainability newsletter. It was determined that the information shared in this proposed document would be more evergreen and general, and more specifically directed to departments.
 - **Flora** wondered if it would make sense to have two versions of this general information - one for departments in the science/STEM areas and one for departments in the humanities, as some of the specific science-related information would not apply to the humanities departments.

It was suggested that we work to cross-promote this information with wellness, and promote wellness-related information more than we already do.

It was also suggested that we could post this information publicly in various places.

After generating a large number of ideas, the sub committee decided to adjourn. It was offered to the subcommittee members that they could join the other subcommittee or leave the meeting.

Scarlet Seymour motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:15 pm. **Jodi Chase** seconded the motion.

Meeting Adjourned

Andrew Zimmerman motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:37 pm.