

## UF Sustainability Committee – Minutes

2/16/2023, 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, Leslie Thiel, Matt Williams, Stephan Willias, Jessica Sheffield

**Excused:** Sidney Ruedas, Sofia Buonanno, Meredith Beaupre, Jeff Boissoneault

**Absent:**

**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*

**Jodi Chase** moved to approve the minutes from January 19, 2023. The motion was seconded by **Flora Iff-Noel**.

### **Old Business**

#### *Central Energy plant*

- no updates at this time

#### *Champions for Change*

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

Nominations are open. People and groups from faculty, staff and students are all eligible. Self-nominations and nominations of others are welcome. The Office of Sustainability has shared across social media, in our Newsletter, and it also went out in the UF HR newsletter. We are looking for the Sustainability Committee to spread the word.

The Office of Sustainability will compile the nominations and bring them to the Committee for selection of awardees at the March meeting.

#### *Student and Faculty interactions with Student Government*

**Nancy Clark** has contacted the Office of Sustainability to present about the Green Cords. Previously, **Kaylee August** presented to one of the DCP classes.

### **New Business**

#### *Chair for Sustainability Committee for next year (2023/2024)*

**Ariel** has been on the Sustainability Committee for 6 years, and will be rolling off the Committee at the end of the year, so we need a new Chair for next year. People can self-nominate or contact **Ariel** or **Liz Storn**.

Responsibilities include attendance at Infrastructure Committee meetings, preparation for Sustainability Committee meetings, and some other ones as well.

It would be useful to have a Chair and a Vice Chair to help share the responsibilities.

### **Office of Sustainability Updates**

**Kaylee & Rachel** presented information about the CALM Plan update. The CALM Plan Update was presented to the COO and upper administration, including the deliverables, maps, and other plan items. It will be taken to the Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee for approval. **Ariel** asked when it will be presented to the Sustainability Committee. **Kaylee** suggested that after it has approval from LVL, they can present it to the Sustainability Committee.

**Matt** said that UF was a sponsor of the Second Nature Higher Education Climate Leadership Summit (<https://whova.com/web/DEIfil1GWzWfJtskl8F6C5i1cRcVYmMiFxSNHIFkl%404%3D/Agenda>). Our team had an excellent conference and made strong connections with other schools, colleagues, and

Matt attended some sessions about the nation-wide pushback against ESG investing. Other Florida State schools there included FSU and USF. He noted that UF appears to be a bit ahead of other SUS schools about ESG investing. The ESG session for the conference was recorded as well.

Budget Council is not interested in pursuing ESG investing due to state legislation.

Other interesting sessions included how universities address thermal energy and renewable energy (Smith, UC Davis).

**Jessica-Jean** found it most interesting that students aren't interested in the catch phrases or information, and they are looking for more action that we generally provide to them.

**Kaylee** mentioned that there was a session on the Inflation Reduction Act and some of the projects that could be funded by it. She noted that there was a lot of information provided, and it will be interesting to see how UF can take advantage of these opportunities.

### **Roundtable Updates**

**Ariel** went to the Infrastructure Council meeting this week. There was a lot of discussion about the flooding at Library West and what can be done about it. **Hélène Huet** noted that the construction is moving fast, and the hope is for the library to be reopened by Spring Break. **Matt** said that any delays are due to supply chain issues.

**Jessica-Jean** brought up the Zero Waste initiative in Gainesville and how UF is partnering with them. The goal is to eliminate all food waste by 2024. She was curious if there were animals at UF that could benefit from any food waste feeding? Also, if there were any abilities to compost on-campus. **Liz** talked about the current initiatives at UF, which include food waste collection from the two dining facilities and paper towel composting from many restrooms on campus.

**Stephan** discussed how research animals at UF often have specific diets, and so they may not be eligible for food waste feeding.

**Liz** also talked about the limitations of composting on campus, including the need for the organic matter taken to be composted to be very clean, which has limited the expansion of composting opportunities.

**Matt** noted that the Student Compost Cooperative has composting for students, and **Kaylee** mentioned that the Field and Fork garden also has a compost location. People can reach out to Anna Prizzia for more information about the Field and Fork composting location.

**Meeting Adjourned**

**Hélène** motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:05pm. **Nancy** seconded the motion.