

UF Sustainability Committee – Minutes

10/19/2023, 12:30-2:30pm

Virtual Zoom meeting

Attendance

Members: Nancy Clark, John Duncan, Jeanne Ewert, Kristin Joys, Nina Rosenzweig, Jessica Sheffield, Andrew Zimmerman, Scarlet Seymour, Craig Money Penny, Jessica-Jean Stonecipher, Creed Greer

Excused: Angie Brown, Mariela Pajuelo, Jodi Chase, Matt Williams, Flora Iff-Noel, Leslie Thiele

Guests/Non-Members: Liz Storn, Kaylee August

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 PM by **Liz Storn**.

Introductions

Liz Storn facilitated the introductions of new members and previous members. **Liz** announced that all of the presidential appointees were approved.

Elect Chair

Liz discussed the need for a sustainability committee chair. Jessica Sheffield will serve as the Vice Chair. The chair would attend the Infrastructure Council on the 1st Monday of the month at 2 pm. **Scarlet Seymour** asked who had served as the chair before. **John Duncan** said he was a previous chair and that the Infrastructure Council was informative to attend. He shared his previous goals and how important it is to create goals for the year.

Andrew Zimmerman nominated himself for the chair position. **Liz** opened the floor for other nominations or discussion. **Jeanne Ewert** seconded the motion to approve Andrew as the committee chair. All members approved the nomination.

Approval of Minutes

Jeanne moved to approve the minutes from September 21, 2023. The motion was seconded by **Jessica-Jean Stonecipher**.

Discussion of suggestions for goals and projects for the upcoming year

Campus Building project sustainability overviews

- **Liz** proposed that Dustin Stephany (Green Building Coordinator - PDC) present green building projects on campus to update the committee on projects. She asked if the committee was interested and what they would find important to know? **Scarlet Seymour** asked if these projects are in the pre-planning process and would need to be approved or would this be more proactive to learn about the different processes? Would there need to be training for the committee to make the approval of the projects? **Liz** said that this committee would not approve the projects. They would be included in the pre-planning discussions. **Nancy Clark** thinks it would be a good idea to increase awareness of the building projects.

- **Craig Money** talked about the Duke Energy rebate for ultra low freezers. He mentioned that ultra low freezers should be a part of the planning process for new construction. **Andrew** asked how the committee could help gain traction for this process. **Craig** talked about understanding the energy hogs in labs and considering energy consumption reduction. **Craig** wants to target upper level administrators to market the rebate more. **Craig** referenced the [Green Labs](#) page on the UF website. **Andrew** spoke of some ways the committee could support Environmental Health & Safety rebate efforts to amplify the initiatives through [data or research](#) supporting the movement towards ultra low freezers. **Craig** mentioned a campus freezer challenge to drop the temperature of the freezers and to encourage freezer sharing amongst faculty. **Liz** spoke of the hardships of encouraging PI's to incorporate those practices into their labs.

STARS update assistance

- **Liz** mentioned that the Office of Sustainability is tracking campus sustainability efforts through [AASHE STARS](#). **Andrew** asked if the committee could help gather the data and **Liz** said that she could make a list of the sustainability data the committee could help with. All of the committee members voted to move forward with this initiative.

Climate Action Plan (CAP)

- **Andrew** would like to know how the committee can support the CAP. **Liz** said that the committee could help with implementation of the plan. **Andrew** asked for a timeline, **Liz** said the CAP is awaiting approval from upper level administrators. However, our office is moving forward with implementation of the CAP. **Andrew** asked if the committee could be helpful by sending a strong message to Sasse requesting his support. **Liz** mentioned working with the Faculty Senate to create a resolution. **Scarlet** asked to review implementation strategies in the CAP prior to next month's meeting. **Andrew** would like to get the plan to the faculty senate as soon as possible. **Jessica-Jean** wanted to look at the connections with food insecurity and the CAP Resilience goals.

Sustainable Events Certification

- **Jessica-Jean** attended a sustainably certified event. She was interested in learning more about the initiative and how it's being promoted. **Liz** mentioned the [sustainable event guide](#) on our website. **Kaylee August** suggested people go through the Sustainable Event guide, ask the office questions, and then we can help approve them. **Kaylee** shared her experience with Palm & Pine Catering. The chef was willing to find fresh, local, sustainable food while taking cost into consideration.

Sharing Sustainability Initiatives

- **Andrew** wants to combine all of the important sustainability initiatives for department chairs or offices. **Creed Greer** mentioned adding program initiatives that chairs could support with talking points to bring to faculty meetings, focusing efforts on departments with big footprints. He also mentioned having committee members in meetings to share initiatives and fact sheets. **Nina Rosenzweig** mentioned the silos and hardships of sharing communication across campus. **Andrew** mentioned that the biggest thing the committee could do would be to get the information out.

Campus Nature Rx Network

- **Nina** mentioned her projects that use nature as a healing modality. She's working to list UF on the [campus nature Rx](#) network. She would like to connect people with nature and the healing benefits of getting outdoors. The program is run through Cornell with the next symposium coming up on October 27th. **Nina** mentioned that current research shows the mental and physical benefits of getting outdoors. **Nina** said there is a small group of people currently trying to gather information together.

Post Construction Green Building Data

- **Scarlet** asked if the sustainability committee would follow up on projects that had sustainable certifications. How are the buildings performing post construction? **Liz** said the committee has not typically looked at this. **Scarlet** said this is something worth considering and asked how the Facilities Services Energy Department could help with this. Corey Farmer gathers this data and could share this information with the committee. **Scarlet** would like to present an initial plan for how to incorporate the committee in post construction green building monitoring.

Office of Sustainability Updates

Liz shared information on the office's [annual sustainability conference](#) at the end of October where we will connect with other sustainability professionals.

Kaylee spoke about CALM week events and the turnout with the committee. The committee provided guidance and ideas to share Green & Clean events on campus and potential collaboration with the Great Invader Raider Rally.

Andrew asked about the student government representatives for the committee and **Kaylee** said she would reach out to SG to find out our committee assignments.

Meeting Adjourned

Jeanne motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:26 pm. **Scarlet** seconded the motion.