

## UF Sustainability Committee – Minutes

4/18/2024, 12:30-2:30pm

Virtual Zoom meeting

### **Attendance**

**Members:** Jodi Chase, Nancy Clark, John Duncan, Jeanne Ewert, Craig Money Penny, Flora Iff-Noel, Nina Stoyan-Rosenzweig, Scarlet Seymour, Leslie Thiele, Matt Williams, Mariela Pajuelo

**Excused:** Kristin Joys, Jessica-Jean Stonecipher, Andrew Zimmerman, Jessica Sheffield,

**Absent:** Creed Greer, Angie Brown, Mariela Pajuelo

**Guests/Non-Members:** Liz Storn, Kaylee August, Isabelle Southern, John Lawson

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 PM by **Andrew Zimmerman**

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Scarlet Seymour** moved to approve the minutes from March 21, 2024. The motion was seconded by **Nina Stoyan-Rosenzweig**.

### **Sustainable Building Presentation**

#### *Katie Seashole Softball Stadium*

**Isabelle Southern** presented a Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) certified building, the Katie Seashole Softball Stadium. This building was UF's first FGBC-certified project, being certified GOLD. The project team held sustainability coordination meetings throughout the planning and design stages to ensure FGBC certification. Educational signage is displayed to highlight the sustainable features in the building's construction. To save energy, all interior lighting automatically turns off after 20 minutes without motion sensors being triggered, and spaces with windows have daylight sensors to adjust the lighting with respect to available sunlight. Lighting sensors and 100% LED fixtures have led to \$3,818 in annual energy savings for this project. The EUI for this project is 236.6 kBtu/sqft, which is 3% below the EnergyStar baseline. This metric measures the energy consumed by a structure annually. The softball stadium was designed with Florida native plants and turfgrass, which require minimal irrigation. Otherwise, irrigation needs are met with reclaimed, non-potable water. The stadium is also connected by the UF Campus Greenway. 24% of the building materials were manufactured within 400 miles of the project site and 27% include recycled content. The construction waste diversion rate was 96% (131 tons), above UF's 75% goal. Construction waste generated by the project was sent to Florence Recycling and Disposal.

Project websites are located here:

- <https://gis.ufl.edu/portal/apps/storymaps/stories/023700144c3d4ad1831ec71ae8070f51>
- [https://thegbi.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/GreenGlobes\\_ProjectProfile\\_CondronBallpark.pdf](https://thegbi.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/GreenGlobes_ProjectProfile_CondronBallpark.pdf)

**Andrew** asked if this project, or if UF projects generally used fly ash substituted concrete. **Isabelle** answered that both slag and fly ash concrete are prioritized for construction projects, however, she does not know if either of these options were used for the stadium construction.

**Flora Iff-Noel** asked why the light motion sensors are specifically set to a 20-minute delay. **Isabelle** answered that she wasn't sure why specifically 20 minutes for this project, but that 20 minutes is a safe assumption to avoid turning off the lights on someone who may not be moving. **Flora** then asked if it would be possible to incorporate more recycled materials into construction, and what constrains a higher percentage being incorporated. **Isabelle** answered that constraints include what the owners want, lack of viable recycled alternatives, time, availability due to economic conditions, and cost.

**Matt Williams** asked if the water reduction credits also included the turfgrass on the field. **Isabelle** responded that she was not sure, but she does not believe that they would be native turfgrass, however they are irrigated with reclaimed water.

**Craig Moneypenny** asked if the baseball stadium across the street complied to the same standards as the softball stadium. **Isabelle** answered that the stadium received three Green Globe certifications, so they are on a similar level but are actually at a higher standard. She added that the soccer and lacrosse facility also achieved GOLD.

**Andrew** asked if **Isabelle** could explain the difference between the Green Globes rating and the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating. **Isabelle** explained that they are all under the USGBC. The FGBC is not involved with the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). Usually for newer construction or interior projects, LEED through USGBC is more catered toward project goals. **Matt** added that Globes requires policy or action plans or providing two years of data. He added that they will be working with **Dustin Stephany** on compiling information comparing the two certification systems in order to provide that information with the group. **Andrew** mentioned that LEED is more recognizable by the public, so may be preferable. **Isabelle** that LEED may be more stringent in some regards, and that other certifications may improve building efficiency and function. **Andrew** responded that the committee wants the highest efficiency possible and that getting a building rated is basically just for public recognition. **Matt** responded that each certification system has different validation requirements and checks-and-balances. He added that the baseball stadium went for Green Globes because no LEED category works for a baseball stadium, so it is a method to still get a green certification when LEED does not apply.

## **New Business**

### *Thanking Outgoing Committee Members*

**Andrew** thanked the committee members whose terms are ending: **Nancy Clark, Flora Iff-Noel, Jodi Chase,** and **Jessica-Jean Stonecipher.** **Matt Williams** mentioned that he had not seen a list of the committee nominees for voting on the faculty senate. **Jeanne Ewert** responded that they had sent it out and they voted this week, but voting was extended for one more week.

### *Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 24/25*

## 2024 Candidate List

- [https://fora.aa.ufl.edu/docs//78///2023-2024//Candidates%20List%20SenateCouncils\\_Committees\\_JointCommittees.2024.pdf](https://fora.aa.ufl.edu/docs//78///2023-2024//Candidates%20List%20SenateCouncils_Committees_JointCommittees.2024.pdf)

**Andrew** mentioned that **Jessica Sheffield** was willing to stand for election for chair. **Andrew** asked what the standard election process was, and **Liz Storn** answered that usually a chair is elected in the April meeting, but nobody stood for it last year, leading to a vacancy until September. There were no objections to **Jessica Sheffield** being chair, so she was elected.

**Andrew** moved on to elections for vice-chair, explaining that the vice-chair attends the pre-meeting to determine the agenda. He then asked if anyone was interested in nominating themselves for the appointment. There were none, so he offered that the committee wait until next year. There were no objections.

## Old Business

### *Project updates - Climate Action Plan Implementation*

**Andrew** began discussing the implementation of the Climate Action Plan, specifically gathering a list of climate change courses. He mentioned that there was no discernable method for officially posting this list of courses, but that a separate webpage could be created. **Andrew** asked **Matt** about progress on compiling a list of courses. **Liz Storn** answered that she took over this project and has begun downloading course syllabi from Design, Construction and Planning (DCP). **Andrew** asked if the syllabi were necessary, and **Liz** responded that they needed the syllabi anyways and a listing could be created from there. **Nancy Clark** added that she believed it would be nice for the students to be able to look through the syllabus.

**Andrew** mentioned that he believed the listing could link to the department webpages, and **Liz** responded that the syllabi needed to be reviewed in order to determine climate change relevance, and that listings are being collected for a snapshot of time since they often change as instructors change. **Matt** added that self reporting had been attempted in the past, but that it resulted in around 10% of the available courses actually being compiled. **Liz** added that it has been easy to download the syllabi from DCP with an extension and that she is looking at the departments where she knows there are sustainability-related courses first.

**Matt** shared that they have selected the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS), DCP, and Engineering as the colleges to target primarily, as they may include approximately 85%-90% of the relevant courses. **Andrew** mentioned that he was willing to put in time and effort for this project, and asked if there was anything he could do to contribute. **Matt** answered that this process would be a lot quicker now that **Liz** has taken it on, and that the list may be compiled within the next month. **Liz** answered that what would be most helpful from the committee would be to brainstorm search terms to find climate-related classes. She also said that it would be useful for members to go through the Excel list and determine if any irrelevant courses were added by the extension.

### *Sustainability Information to be shared with Department Heads*

**Andrew** asked who was leading the Department Head information package. **Liz** said that she and **Angie Brown** were working on this, but that it has not moved forward due to Earth Day activities, but will be a high priority over the summer. A list will be sent out and drafted for review. She said it would be able to go out by early August.

**Andrew** asked if there was an email list for all department chairs, and **Liz** answered that **Angie** would have more knowledge on this.

### **Office of Sustainability Updates**

#### *Office of Sustainability Updates & Earth Month events to date recap*

**Kaylee August** discussed Champions for Change, saying that it was an amazing, fun event and that members of the College of Medicine found it interesting to hear what people in sustainability were doing.

**Kaylee** also discussed the Sustainability in Action Showcase, saying that many people showed up and the passport helped engage students with a lot of the tables. She also mentioned that the cotton candy was a great incentive to engage with the different organizations, and that about 160 people engaged with the passport in total.

**Kaylee** also mentioned the Farm to Table Dinner, which many committee members attended, and that the committee was helpful in supporting many of these events. Finally, the Office of Sustainability will be tabling at the Horticultural Sciences Teaching Farm Spring Festival on Friday evening, which will be the last event of Earth Month along with the Lake Alice Watershed Management Plan Information Meeting on April 25. This will be the last Lake Alice Watershed Management Plan meeting.

- Lake Alice Watershed Management Plan - Final Public Information Meeting  
<https://facilities.ufl.edu/lakealice/get-involved/>

**Andrew** shared that on Saturday, the Greater Gainesville Earth Life Festival is occurring downtown. A week from Saturday, the Santa Fe Earth Month event will be occurring, and he will be tabling at both.

**Liz** linked the Office of Sustainability webpage for Earth Month events.

- <https://sustainable.ufl.edu/2024/02/25/uf-earth-month-2024/>

### **Roundtable Discussion**

**Liz Storn's** current position will end. However, she will continue to be involved with the Office of Sustainability.

**Matt** thanked **Andrew** for his work as committee chair.

**Meeting Adjourned**

**Nancy** motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:16 pm, which was seconded by **Flora**.