

UF Sustainability Committee – Minutes

Date: January 16, 2025

Time: 12:30-2:30 PM

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Attendance

Members: Andrew Zimmerman, Craig Moneypenny, Flora Iff-Noel, Zoe Richter, Nina Stoyan-Rosenzweig, John Duncan, Austin Britton, Carmen Bruno, Jeanne Ewert, Matt Williams, Angie Brown, Leslie Thiele, Mariela Pajuelo

Excused: Jessica Sheffield, Kristin Joys, Jessica-Jean Stonecipher, Dustin Stephany, Jiangxiao Qiu

Absent:

Guests/Non-Members: Kaylee August

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Andrew Zimmerman moved to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2024, meeting, with noted edits. **Carmen Bruno** seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Senate Nominations Reminder

Nina Stoyan-Rosenzweig reminded the members that Senate nominations are open through January 31st and encouraged everyone to bring forward nominations. **Matt Williams** added that members should share any ideas or thoughts about potential nominees to ensure a robust selection process.

Upcoming Meeting Content

Campus Dining Presentation

Nina highlighted the upcoming campus dining presentation scheduled for the February meeting and urged members to submit any questions they would like addressed by February 10th. **Matt Williams** confirmed that questions could be sent to either himself or Kaylee August.

Urban Forester/Arborist Position

Matt Williams reported that Tim Martin from the forestry faculty had offered to present at the February meeting regarding the proposal initially brought to the Lakes Vegetation and Landscape Committee. **Nina** expressed interest in this presentation and asked if anyone else had thoughts on it.

Moving March Meeting

Matt also suggested moving the March meeting to March 27th to allow time for Champions for Change nominations. **Nina** asked for a show of hands to vote on moving the meeting, and the members voted unanimously to move the meeting to March 27th.

Malachowsky Hall Tour

Nina mentioned that a tour of Malachowsky Hall is being set up for the April meeting.

Committee Bylaws Discussion

Nina Stoyan-Rosenzweig and **John Duncan** led the discussion on changing the wording in the Senate Committee Bylaws regarding voting members. The discussion was broken down into several key sections:

Voting Student Members

Zoe Richter suggested specifying two voting student members: one graduate and one undergraduate. She explained that this change would ensure representation from both student groups and align with the current discussions in the student senate about graduate and undergraduate representation on committees. **Austin Britton** supported Zoe's suggestion, highlighting the importance of having both graduate and undergraduate voices on the committee. He mentioned that the student government president selects committee members from applicants, and the Senate approves them. **Austin** proposed that the charter should specify the need for one graduate and one undergraduate student to ensure balanced representation.

John Duncan raised a concern about the process if no graduate student is interested in joining the committee. **Zoe** responded by suggesting that the seat should remain open until a graduate student applies, rather than including a clause that allows for flexibility. She argued that this approach would ensure that the committee actively seeks graduate student representation. **Nina** proposed finalizing and voting on the bylaw changes in the February meeting. She asked the members if they agreed with specifying two voting student members and if there were any additional thoughts on the matter.

Removal of Academic Officer Position

Matt Williams explained the process for changing bylaws and the need for approval from various committees, including the University Constitution Regulations Committee and the Faculty Senate Steering Committee. He provided historical context, noting that the academic officer position was initially intended to provide continuity and support for the committee but had not been utilized as originally envisioned. **Andrew Zimmerman** motioned to remove the academic officer position from the bylaws, arguing that the role no longer served a clear purpose. **Jeanne Ewert** seconded the motion. The members discussed the implications of removing the position, with some expressing concerns about losing a non-voting faculty member who could provide continuity.

Leslie Thiele, who had served as the academic officer, shared his perspective on the role. He explained that the position was created to support the committee's academic side but acknowledged that it had not been clearly defined or utilized effectively. **Leslie** suggested that the committee could consider other ways to ensure academic continuity without the formal position. After further discussion, the members voted to remove the academic officer position and adjust the committee size to 18 members. The decision was based on the consensus that the role was no longer necessary and that the committee could function effectively without it.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Language

Flora Iff-Noël suggested keeping the language related to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the bylaws unless feedback from the University Constitution Regulations Committee or the Faculty Senate Steering Committee indicated otherwise. She emphasized the importance of maintaining the committee's commitment to these principles. The members agreed to keep the language related to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Providing Feedback on Office of Sustainability's Progress

John Duncan proposed providing feedback on the Office of Sustainability's progress as part of the committee's responsibilities. He suggested that the committee could offer annual feedback to the appropriate parties, such as the office's supervisor, to support the director and ensure alignment with the committee's goals. The members decided to finalize and vote on the bylaw changes in the February meeting, incorporating the discussed adjustments.

Office of Sustainability Updates

Matt Williams informed the committee that Kaylee August is returning part-time and that website updates are in progress. He also mentioned that nominations for the Champions for Change Awards are open and that the Healthy Gators partnership continues. Additionally, **Matt** discussed the new [QS Sustainability University Ranking](#). He highlighted the International Residence Hall Association upcoming events and sustainability presentations. He also talked about the move-out assistance program and provided an update on the greenhouse gas inventory. **Kaylee August** asked members to suggest any obscure clubs for the sustainability in action showcase.

Roundtable Discussion

John Duncan provided updates on the South Terrace seawall replacement project and the launch of the Gator Market vendor fair. He explained that the seawall replacement project would take close to a year and that the Office of Sustainability is involved in ensuring the project respects the conservation area. John also discussed the [Gator Market](#), which is set to launch on January 22nd and will feature various vendors selling items such as vintage clothes, candles, jewelry, and more.

Austin Britton discussed the potential solar panel project for the Reitz Union and the feasibility of funding it through an ESCO loan. **Matt Williams** mentioned ongoing discussions about solar projects and the legal interpretation of net metering laws. **Mariela Pajuelo** asked about considerations for reducing plastic use at the Gator Market, and **John** explained that while there are no specific limitations in place, the goal is to minimize plastic use.

Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM following a motion by **Carmen Bruno**, seconded by **Mariela Pajuelo**.