**Minutes – December 12, 2024**

**UF Sustainability Committee – Minutes**

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

Virtual Zoom meeting

**Attendance**

**Members:**, Jessica Sheffield, Dustin Stephany, Jessica-Jean Stonecipher, Matt Williams, Andrew Zimmerman, Craig Moneypenny, Flora Iff-Noel, Mariela Pajuelo, Zoe Richter, Nina Stoyan-Rosenzweig, John Duncan, Austin Britton, Carmen Bruno, Jiangxiao Qiu, Jeanne Ewert

**Excused:** Kristin Joys, Angie Brown, Les Thiele

**Absent:**

**Guests/Non-Members:** John Lawson

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:32 PM by **Jessica Sheffield.**

**Approval of Minutes**

**Andrew Zimmerman** moved to approve the minutes from Nov 21, 2024. The motion was seconded by **Dustin Stephany.**

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. Senate Nominations**

Replacement needed for one Presidential seat (Scarlett Seymour) to complete the 2026 term. The Office of Sustainability (OoS) will recommend a replacement to the Interim Vice President of Business Affairs.

Two Senate seats (Jessica Stonecipher and Mariela Pajuelo) will roll off in 2025; nominations are open until January 31. Senate appointments occur in summer.

Two additional seats (John Duncan and Angie Brown) will roll off in summer 2025.

**2. Students as voting members on Joint Committees:**

Current [Senate Bylaws](https://generalcounsel.ufl.edu/media/generalcounselufledu/documents/Bylaws.pdf) (2006) state students are non-voting members unless otherwise noted.

Discussion on granting students voting rights. This would require a bylaw amendment reviewed by the Senate Committee on Committees and the Constitutional Committee.

Committee agreed to review potential bylaw revisions in the January meeting.

Evaluation of OoS and its Director and Academic Officer (as outlined in current bylaws) deemed unnecessary, as these functions are addressed through HR’s UF Engaged process.

**3. Campus Earth month Sustainability Showcase - April 9th**

Scheduled for April 9, 2025, at the Reitz Union Colonnade (10 AM – 2 PM).

Committee members were encouraged to suggest participants. A list of organizations will be shared once finalized.

**4. Champions for Change timeline**

Awards ceremony: April 23, 2025 (4 PM – 6 PM, O’Connell Center Court).

Nominations open January 14, closing one week before the March meeting.

**5. Information Sharing Project**

A [shared document](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1w0wBWjVMwHx7r2vFtskOufR8Ama_O7sKyAfihuF4v70/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.k6xgedje419x) is being developed to educate faculty and department heads about UF’s sustainability efforts.

[Faculty Staff Guide](https://sustainable.ufl.edu/get-involved/faculty-staff-guide/) site is the current official communications that are currently updated. Suggestions included reorganizing the document to prioritize departmental units.

OoS reached out to the Center for Teaching Excellence for a presentation for this group about [incorporating SDG’s into curriculum](https://teach.ufl.edu/events/internationalizing-your-curriculum-through-the-sdgs-2/) and hope to have it on the agenda for Spring.

Edits and comments to the Google Doc will be reviewed in spring meetings.

**6, Office of Sustainability Updates**

Website updates underway to align with UF’s new branding format.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory for 2019-2023 is 80-90% complete; Drafts expected by January.

Greg Nobleza, a data integration intern, will assist with data integration reporting.

**SE Student Sustainability Conference,** Scheduled for April 4-6, 2025, at Duke University. Registration ($50 for students, $75 for staff/faculty) and call for posters close on February 1, 2025. Discussion on encouraging UF student participation.

**Tree Campus USA Application:** Application process for 2024 begins in January. Interns will assist, with committee review planned.

**Board of Trustees: Metrics and Rankings:** Committee will be provided sustainability metrics and submissions, including AASHE Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System, Greenhouse Gas Intensity, QS Sustainability Rankings, and Tree Campus USA as they become available.

**Roundtable Discussion**

**Student Senate Guidelines:** Suggestions to create a guideline for sustainable vendors and a rubric to evaluate vendors, addressing greenwashing and promoting useful “swag” alternatives.

**LEED Platinum Certification:** [Malachowsky Hall](https://www.eng.ufl.edu/about/new-buildings/malachowsky-hall-for-data-science-information-technology/) achieved certification. A tour was proposed for spring.

[Recycle Florida Today](https://recyclefloridatoday.org/specialty-plate/)[license plate](https://recyclefloridatoday.org/specialty-plate/)**:** Presale initiative requires 3,000 orders within 22 months to support state sustainability projects.

**Conservation Areas and Arborist Position:** Discussion on UF’s lack of an arborist since 2008. Follow-up planned for the next meeting.

Recognition to Dustin Stephany and Mark Hostetler by the Audubon Society for the use of bird-friendly glazing at the Malachowsky Hall building.

**Meeting Adjourned**

**Dustin** motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:46 pm, which was seconded by **Nina Stoyan-Rosenzweig**.