

President's Sustainability Committee

Minutes

May 15th, 2017, 1:00-2:30 pm

TILT 104

Members Present:

Carol Dollard – Facilities Management – Co-Chair of PSC
Tonie Miyamoto – Housing & Dining Services – Co-Chair of PSC
Stacey Baumgarn – Facilities Management
Van Wallace – Facilities Management
Kirstie Tedrick – STARS Intern
Jake Drenth – Surplus Property
Andrew Warnock – College of Natural Sciences Education and Outreach
Tony Rappe – College of Natural Sciences
Brian Dunbar – IBE
Farrah Bustamante – Procurement Services
Erika Benti – Parking and Transportation Services
Esther Duke – Warner College of Natural Resources
Mark Ritschard – College of Engineering
Tim Broderick – HDS
Jocelyn Hittle – CSU System
Bill Timpson – College of Health and Human Sciences
John Fitch – Morgan Libraries
Don Albrecht - Morgan Libraries
Julie Kallenberger - CSU Water Center and Colorado Water Institute
Aleta Weller – SoGES
Colleen Duncan – CVMBS
Chris Giglio – EHS
Geneve Huxley – CSUF
Tom Satterly – Associate Vice President for Facilities Management
Lynn Johnson – Vice President for University Operations
President Tony Frank – President of Colorado State University

1. 2016-2017 Highlights

- a. President Frank started the meeting by thanking the PSC for their many accomplishments over the last year.
- b. CSU has been ranked or rated by many institutions, such as AASHE (STARS), *The Princeton Review*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, etc. Some of the rankings are new while others are maintained year to year.
- c. Other major highlights from 2016-2017 include the President's endorsement of the Climate Realities Pledge, the windrow composting expansion, 2 new LEED buildings (LEED building total is now 26), over 2 million transit rides taken, and much more.
- d. CSU has once again achieved Platinum STARS rating by AASHE. The new Platinum ranking is based on STARS 2.1, which is a more stringent rating system than before.
 - i. The final STARS score was 85.56 and any score over 85 is Platinum.
 - ii. STARS is a comprehensive report, taking all facets of the University into account and the report shows the University's areas of strengths and opportunities for growth.
 - iii. CSU demonstrates many STARS Best Practices in many areas including -
 1. **Learning Outcomes** - 72.15% of students who graduate from programs that have adopted at least one sustainability learning outcome.
 2. **Undergraduate Programs** – CSU offers Ecosystem Science and Sustainability, Fish, Wildlife & Conservation Biology, Natural Resources Management, and other undergraduate programs.
 3. **Immersive Experiences** – CSU offers immersive experiences at the Mountain Campus, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and other places.
 4. **Incentives for Developing Courses** – Through SoGES, sustainability education improvement grants are available to faculty for new course development.

5. **Research and Scholarship** – 80% of research areas on campus and 31% of faculty and staff are engaged in sustainability research.
 6. **Student Educators Program** – The Eco Leader program, among others, is a great example of a peer-to-peer sustainability education program available to CSU students.
 7. **Continuing Education** – Almost 400 continuing education courses offered pertain to sustainability.
 8. **Sustainability Coordination** – The cross-departmental organization of the President's Sustainability Committee has been a successful model of sustainability collaboration.
- iv. There are some challenges to these reporting areas but Tonie and Carol are hopeful that the next STARS reporting process will be easier, after having established contacts across the University.

2. 2017-2018 Areas of Focus and Discussion

- a. Moving forward, the President's Sustainability will turn its focus to the following areas -
 - i. **Living Wage** – The Employee Councils have been diligently working to address this issue and the PSC supports their initiative. The proposal aims to put all employees at \$30,000/annually.
 - ii. **Positive Sustainable Investments** – Working with the CSU Foundation, the goal in this area is to increase positive sustainable investments, rather than divestments.
 - iii. **Learning Outcomes** – This goal is to increase ease of finding sustainability-related courses for interested students.
 - iv. **Renewable Electricity** – Increase investments into renewable electricity. The University currently has a small percentage of renewable energy in place now but the Climate Realities Pledge and interest from industry will help this initiative.
 - v. **Sustainable Game Day Operations** – Composting, waste reduction, and sustainability education are all potential components of sustainable game day operations.
 - vi. **Zero Waste Campus** – Waste diversion rates need improvement. The new windrow composting system can potentially help this need.
 - vii. **Green the Fleet** – A goal of greening the fleet of state and service vehicles might be enhanced with the new parking program, which will require the purchase of permits for state/service vehicles. Requiring permits will help departments prioritize vehicle need and potentially consolidate vehicle use. Only 5% of the campus fleet is alternatively fueled.
- b. The PSC will hold a retreat over the summer, in which efforts will be dedicated to assess next steps to address these issues.
- c. CSU is considered to be a higher-education sustainability leader and representatives from the university will present at several national conferences, to share success stories.

3. Feedback from President Frank and Vice President Johnson

- a. Vice President Lynn Johnson thanked the PSC for their work on sustainability initiatives and also asked if the Committee discussed the infusion of diversity into any sustainability initiatives.
 - i. To some degree, the inclusion of diversity into sustainability initiatives has been discussed by sub-groups of the PSC. Specifically, there is a sub-group working on learning outcomes and this sub-group has discussed the potential of infusing sustainability (and potentially diversity) into core classes like CO 150, which all students must take to graduate. This may be logistically difficult because of course turnover. Also, the PSC partnered with the Diversity Symposium this past fall to bring Jacqui Patterson from the NAACP to campus to speak about the intersections of diversity and sustainability.
 - ii. Lynn is very interested in exploring the infusion of diversity into campus life more consistently, like the PSC has done with sustainability. Lynn and President Frank are open and supportive of other ideas.
- b. President Frank said that the PSC is a well-integrated committee with detailed goals and positive outcomes.
 - i. President Frank suggested that Carol and Tonie come to a BOG meeting, perhaps in October, to re-present the PSC's strategic plan. President Frank believes this will be of benefit to both the BOG and to the PSC.
- c. President Frank also mentioned that the University will take a first step at addressing the living wage issue this next fiscal year. By 2020, will \$30,000 be the right answer for a living wage solution? The University might not know that answer yet but will start to address the issue.
- d. President Frank also mentioned the City's mass transit proposal to the University, which will include CSU's contribution of funding of Sunday transit service.

- i. Sunday service ranks low on CSU's transit priorities. Other priorities include longer bus service hours, extra busses on Elizabeth so no student is left behind, and an extension of the Around the Horn stops.
 - ii. President Frank thought the City would propose a more integrated and collaborative plan. Unless the PSC advises him otherwise, the President said he would agree to a one-year partnership for Sunday service with the expectation of a more robust, comprehensive plan for future years.
- e. President Frank asked the President's Sustainability Committee to consider potentially changing its title to become the President's Sustainability Commission.
 - i. Currently, CSU has two presidential commissions – the President's Commission for Diversity and Inclusion and the President's Commission on Women and Gender Equity. A commission serves as an independent body, reporting evaluations back to the President. Commissions have a deeper sense of permanency and cannot be disbanded without valid reason.
 - ii. President Frank asked the PSC to think about this potential change and how the structure of the committee might be impacted.

4. Thoughts and Questions from the Committee

- a. Carol and Tonie will meet with Cara Neth to discuss committee vs. commission and they will address the following comments, concerns, and questions from the PSC.
- b. Are commissions given larger budgets?
- c. Would the structure of a commission undo the collaborative work of the committee? Currently, the PSC has open, flexible membership but a commission has more structured, time-limited membership terms.
- d. Do commissions allow for working group activity?
- e. Would a presidential commission help ensure easier data collection from departments?
- f. STARS requires a sustainability committee as a working group for reporting. Perhaps this language can be resolved with AASHE.
- g. Has any other group on campus been offered the title of commission and turned it down? If so, why?

5. Announcements and Wrap Up

Brian Dunbar – The WELL team doesn't have a confirmed date for their next campus visit yet. Likely, the visit will be August or September but Brian will be in touch with more details as they are available.

Stacey Baumgarn – Stacey mentioned that the PSC can participate in our campus' diversity initiatives to help the conversation move forward. The Diversity Symposium has a call for proposals out now.

Jake Drenth – Before he came to the meeting, Jake's weight counts for the Leave it Behind program totaled about 50,000 pounds of material. Only 5,000 pounds of the 50,000 pound total is trash. The left-over material will be sold at the [Surplus Tent Sale](#) on June 3 and 4th. To volunteer to help with the sale (either before or during) click [here](#).

Chris Giglio – The City is hosting a hazardous waste drop off event on May 20th at 625 9th Street (City Street Office). Mattresses can be dropped off at this event too, for a fee.

Julie Kallenberger – [The Poudre River Clean Up](#) event is scheduled for Saturday, May 27th at 9:00 am in Lee Martinez Park. And, the [Poudre River Fest](#) is scheduled for June 3rd 12:00-7:00 in the field just south of New Belgium.

Erika Benti – Parking and Transportation Services will be hosting a series of women's bike rides from June-October. Riders will be given information about safety, signaling, etc. More information about these rides can be found [here](#).

Aleta Weller – SoGES just announced their [2017-2018 Sustainability Leadership Fellows](#), which ranges across 15 different departments.

Jocelyn Hittle – Jocelyn will soon set up a memorial fund in her father, Professor Douglas Hittle's name. This fund will be an endowment fund, dedicated to finding solutions to global energy challenges. Please contact Jocelyn for more information, if you are interested.