



**PRESIDENT'S  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**

Agenda

September 19th, 1:00-2:30 pm

**Virtual Meeting**

- In Attendance:
  - Tonie Miyamoto, Carol Dollard, Stacey Baumgarn, Grace Wright, Kirstie Tedrick, Anthony Appleton, Andrew Warnock, Alicia Armentrout, Tim Brennan, Farrah Bustamante, Brian Dunbar, Aaron Fodge, Chris Giglio, Monica Latham, Greg Lewis, Mary Liang, Ryan Scott, Rodolfo Valdes Vasquez, Daniel McGrath. William Timpson, Jocelyn Hittle, Sybil Sharvelle, Sara Campbell.
  - Welcome Omar Soliman, ASCSU Deputy of Director of Sustainability.
- Sustainability Curriculum Innovation Grants:
  - Aleta Weller: The Request for Proposals is out for this year, we are advertising broadly but please share the RFP with anyone you can think of. Faculty have until the end of the month to submit a proposal. We are looking at funding 3-4 proposals for this year. SCI Grants are focused on adding depth to sustainability curriculum on campus, either in existing classes or with new courses. It has been successful so far; it is very interesting to see where faculty are interested in adding sustainability to the curriculum. The types of questions we get from faculty informs how we develop the RFP for future years. We are looking into a couple of adjustments for next year – such as moving the RFP to the winter to allow faculty to have a full year to spend the funds.
  - Tonie Miyamoto: Interdisciplinary approaches and high-yield courses are prioritized for these funds. We can see the progress in curriculum through STARS with the course inventories. Thank you to the Academic Subcommittee for all your work with developing the survey with IRIS this summer!
- Course & Community Service Survey Results
  - Tonie Miyamoto: We have the preliminary results back from the course and community service survey. If anyone has any questions, let us know and we can dig deeper into the IRIS results. We had more than 600 undergraduate courses reported. All but one department responded, we followed up with them and they responded right away with a course to include. There were over 300 grad courses reported in the survey as well. Thank you to Rick Miranda and Jan Nerger for sending out the survey requests, we were able to get quite a lot of responses for summer.
  - Kirstie Tedrick: 23% of both undergraduate and graduate courses are sustainability focused. 64% of CSU graduates complete a course or academic program with a sustainability focus.
  - Tonie Miyamoto: In the survey, we asked about environmental, economic, and social sustainability. For undergraduate courses, courses including environmental and social sustainability were slightly higher than economic, with 173 courses including environmental sustainability, 187 including social sustainability and 146 including economic sustainability. At the graduate level, social sustainability was a bit higher than environmental and economic. We also asked faculty how they integrate sustainability into their curriculum. The number one way was through lectures, the number two way was assignments or graded deliverables, and third was through podcasts or reading brought back for discussion.
  - Mary Liang: We were able to tag on a community service question in the survey for the STARS report. The data was a bit muddled, for example some respondents indicated that courses have community service included but did not provide the number of students or hours. Overall, the survey indicates more students are doing community service in their courses, but they are completing less hours than pre-Covid.

- Tonie Miyamoto: We will be sharing the results with the Academics & Research Subcommittee. As many of you know, Tony Rappe had been the chair of this committee and the survey was something he had been working towards for a long time. He had to step back from this position and Joe von Fischer has stepped in as the new chair, beginning in October. We will send the Academics & Research Subcommittee the data so we can dig in to see how we can further integrate sustainability for as many students as possible. Rick Miranda has expressed his support with this. As Aleta mentioned, the Curriculum Innovation Grants help us with knowing where faculty are excited and interested to integrate sustainability. The more grants we award will help us further integrate sustainability. The survey numbers are encouraging but give us room to grow as they are not at 100% of students, which is our stretch goal. We continue to have a strong STARS report for the Academics area, with a 100% score again. This is a high bar to reach, and STARS 2.2 continued to push the bar, so to be at 100% again is great news.
  - Rodolfo Valdes Vasquez: Can we target departments with the grants using the results of this survey?
    - Tonie Miyamoto: That is a potential route to take. The survey did indicate departments that have room to improve with sustainability curriculum.
  - Anthony Appleton: Matt Rhodes in Psychology may be a good contact to work with as many undergraduates take some of the entry-level Psychology classes. This could be a good opportunity to further integrate justice, equity, and inclusion into curriculum.
  - Tonie Miyamoto: There are quite a few AUCC courses that a majority of undergrads pass through so we can target those courses to reach as many students as possible. Targeting graduate students is a little trickier.
    - Anthony Appleton: To target graduate students, connecting with the Grad school could be helpful as they provide onboarding and training to all graduate students.
- Upcoming Launch of CSU Sustainability Fund
  - Mary Liang: This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year for the CSU Sustainability Fund, and with the PSC sponsoring it, we once again have \$25,000 to allocate. We encourage students and employees to apply for funding of sustainability projects on campus. There is a short turnaround time, like the SCI grants, so that funds can be spent by the end of the fiscal year. Applications are due on October 28, and then the Sustainability Fund Committee will begin reviewing the applications. Anthony will be hosting several office hours to help answer questions for applicants and has created graphics to distribute.
  - Anthony Appleton: Please share the advertisement graphics across your networks as you see fit, there is one file best for media displays and one for emails (see email for graphics). Project funding can start as low as \$200 and up to \$10,000. We are a positive committee so we try to fund as many projects in our purview as possible; if there are any projects we cannot fund we try to pass them onto another area that may help. Thank you to Mary for leading this committee.
  - Carol Dollard: We are looking to fund more micro-projects this year to spread the fund across more applicants. If you have any students who just need a little bit of funding, please encourage them to apply. We would love to fund more small projects rather than just a couple larger ones.
  - Tonie Miyamoto: As a reminder and for our newer members, subcommittees like the CSU Sustainability Fund subcommittee, are open to anyone on the PSC and the community, if you or someone you know wants to get more involved, there are more opportunities to jump in. Huge thank you to Tim Brennan, then PSC Treasurer, for helping us get the finances set up in a way that we can fund these projects!
- Green Building Standards Working Group Update
  - Carol Dollard: We are fresh off meeting with new VP of Operations (Brendan Hanlon); we met with him about the Building Conceptual Review Process to ensure that our new construction undergoes a process that ensures all voices involved with planning are included early on. We gave Brendan an overview of PSC and he is very interested in meeting with more groups and potentially attending a meeting. The Green Building Team has been working on a lot of various projects. Brian Dunbar worked on a carpet policy for our buildings. The Green Cleaning team has been looking at how to navigate policies so they have the largest impact. An impact statement from the Green Cleaning Team has made its way through upper Administration and we will be working towards developing a policy. We had been working on this prior to

writing the impact statement, so the bulk of the work is already done. We will then be able to do outreach with the community to get input on the policy. The E-Waste proposal went out to the PSC for review, we only got one response, but it was positive, and we are just about ready to send the proposal up to Admin. The E-Waste proposal looks at creating a central fund for universal waste (waste that becomes hazardous when disposed of improperly) to encourage proper disposal and avoid hoarding. The proposal includes batteries, e-waste, and freon-containing devices.

- Aaron Fodge: I really appreciated our meeting today with Brendan Hanlon about the Conceptual Review Process. Thank you, PSC, for your willingness to write letters of support.
- Anthony Appleton: Stacey and I working on the Environmentally and Socially Responsible Procurement Policy (ESRP). Thank you, Stacey, for your work on the policy.
  - Stacey Baumgarn: ESRP is an existing policy which means it goes through review every three years or so. The ESRP is a little overdue for review, so we are trying to do that. We had a shift in thinking, we are not changing the intent of the policy but looking to remove some of the how-to/best practice information into an addendum.
  - Tonie Miyamoto: Until the policy has mandates, will it move the needle on what is bought?
  - Stacey Baumgarn: It comes down to enforcement, there are many things that may be mandated but enforcing is challenging.
  - Farrah Bustamante: We can enforce it, if the University is supportive. As an example, with the minimum 30% recycled content paper, those papers are the only options within the purchasing catalog. These are mandates that can be put in place if there is support.
  - Tonie Miyamoto: Is this something the PSC could pursue? With ELT or ASCSU?
  - Omar Soliman: I can bring this up with my department at ASCSU and see if this is something we can pursue.
- Brian Dunbar: We recently met with the new Master Planner, she was very interested in PSC and potentially participating. She was very knowledgeable and willing to be a supporter.
- STARS Updates
  - Tonie Miyamoto: This is a tough year for us, we have been on top for many years and thus created high expectations for ourselves. We have 99% of the data inputted and our preliminary score is in the Platinum threshold but we have lost some ground during the pandemic. We still must review with AASHE, but it is looking solid so far with our 3<sup>rd</sup> party reviewer. The bad news is that we have lost some ground during the pandemic. The STARS team is working hard to find any remaining points. We have some credits that have been hard, but it indicates where we can do work. Every version of STARS is a bit harder than the last, which has made it harder to compare with pre-pandemic scores.
  - Carol Dollard: Fleet is in the single digits of non-gas or diesel fleet. We have a long way to go to increase fleet sustainability. ASU has a policy to buy alternative fuel vehicles as the default unless you have a good reason not to; we are the opposite. If you have an interest in transit, please look to be involved with the Transportation committee, we will be looking for volunteers next month. For the Building Energy Efficiency categories, we got minimal points, especially for existing buildings. We may potentially look at certifying our existing buildings. Our new buildings also struggled, with exemptions from LEED Gold and Silver, and we had no LEED Platinum buildings in this report. Our Energy Reserve Fund was never cut during the pandemic due to its return on investment. In terms of Renewable Energy Credits, CSU has been on both the buying and receiving end. We had very little to invest this past year.
  - Stacey Baumgarn: I think we are doing amazing with this report, STARS is a way for the institutions to measure ourselves and then have conversations about how to move the needle on sustainability. Conversations like we are having today about how to get better is the intent of the process. Thank you to everyone for your help, the score and report couldn't happen without all your help.
  - Rodolfo Valdes Vasquez: How is Living Wage measured?
    - Tonie Miyamoto: For STARS, they look at what the lowest paid CSU employees earn in comparison with the MIT Living Wage Calculator for our area for a family of four. The majority of faculty is above the living wage. Non-student hourly is struggling as are Admin Pros and State Classified. Wages are a pressing issue and are a university priority.

- Member Updates
  - Carol Dollard: The Greenhouse Gas Footprint GHG is with our 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Reviewer, and we are expecting a letter of approval this week. We are still on a downward trend despite being higher than last year (when the pandemic impacted numbers). Air travel is still down, about half of pre-Covid numbers. I will be sending it out to the PSC once it is completed.
  - Anthony Appleton: The Biosafety Stewardship Initiative is putting together the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Poster Contest. The contest is open to all students and employees and can be submitted individually or as a group. The Poster submission deadline is September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Awards will be given to the top three posters. The Biosafety & Biosecurity Fair will be returning in October, everyone can attend and participate in the fair. <https://www.research.colostate.edu/ricro/ibc/csu-biosafety-stewardship-initiative/>
  - Carol Dollard: Shoutout to Stacey for getting a sustainability-focused sentence into the official job description for the next President.
    - Stacey Baumgarn: There are at least two parts of job description relating to salary and living wage and many points relating to social justice, equity, and academics. The job description is out there, and recruiting will be starting soon, the process may happen quickly.
      - Find the official job description here: <https://www.parkersearch.com/current-opportunities/colorado-state-university/president-0>
      - Find CSU's webpage about the search here: <https://presidentalsearch.colostate.edu/>
  - Brian Dunbar: One of our former IBE graduate interns in interior design did a research project focusing on sustainability in schools, Whole Schools. They presented this research at a conference in D.C. with the Center for Green Schools in attendance. They asked to co-publish the project. This intern's work has turned into working across the country with high-needs schools to implement sustainability initiatives, Whole School Sustainability. Bill Timpson's book about teaching sustainability and the Whole School Sustainability Program have put CSU on the radar nationally for sustainability in schools.
    - Learn more about Whole School Sustainability: <https://ibe.colostate.edu/whole-school-sustainability/>
  - Tonie Miyamoto: Thank you for attending today. I think we are all feeling the urgency of climate change and the importance of the work we are doing as we think about those affected most right now by catastrophic flooding in Pakistan and Puerto Rico.