

President's Sustainability Committee

Minutes

November 16th, 2015, 1:00-2:30 pm

TILT 104

Members Present: Carol Dollard – Facilities Management
Tonie Miyamoto - Housing and Dining Services, Student Affairs
Aaron Fodge – Department of Parking and Transportation
Jesse Parker – College of Engineering
Paul Doherty – Faculty Council
Annabelle Berklund – Graduate Student Council
Aleta Weller - SoGES
Esther Duke – Warner College of Natural Resources
Tim Broderick – Housing and Dining Services
Eco Leader Representative
Tony Rappe – College of Natural Sciences
Kelsey Silver – ASCSU
Jake Drenth – Surplus Property
Allen Padilla – CSURF
Sheela Backen – Facilities Management
Neyda Gilman – Libraries
Jocelyn Hittle – Denver Operations
Jacob Kimicek – Student Sustainability Center
Farrah Bustamante – Procurement Services
Dell Rae Ciaravola – Public Relations

1. LEED Memo

- a. The LEED memo discussed at the September meeting was passed around the group for hard signatures.
- b. The memo will be forwarded to VPUO Lynn Johnson and eventually, President Frank.

2. AASHE Conference Update

- a. CSU was well represented at the AASHE conference in Minneapolis.
- b. Carol, Tonie, and Stacey presented the “Path to Platinum”, which generated some challenges by other Universities. However, the STARS report was very thoroughly assembled and all challenges were defensible.
- c. Jacob, Jake and Tim also presented at the conference.
- d. STARS 2.0 will be released in the spring of 2016 and the next CSU submission will be in spring of 2017.
 - i. The new system will have more stringent criteria.
- e. Carol and Tonie are both running for the Board positions - Carol is running for the STARS Governing Board and Tonie is running for the AASHE Board –
 - i. This election process is new and is meant to allow for more inclusivity.

3. Retreat Planning

- a. The PSC has had great success with holding retreats in January over Christmas break to strategically plan for the upcoming year.
 - i. Dates for this 2016 will most likely be January 14th or 15th.
- b. Strategic planning will be more effective to come from smaller subgroups focused on the specific aspects of the STARS report.
 - i. Subgroups will be academics, research, engagement, operations, and administration and planning.

- ii. Though combined in the STARS report, research and academics would be better separated as the campaigns for research strongly differ from that of academics.
- c. The retreat will focus on the brainstorming of goals/mission of the PSC to align with STARS and then the subcommittees will pick up the work and reporting after that.
- d. STARS 2.0 technical manual will be available at that time, which may help subgroups better understand the constraints of the new system.
- e. Nominations for other representatives from other departments or areas to serve on subgroups are welcome.

4. EV Policy Examples

- a. Aaron shared a draft of a recommendation for a push for more electric vehicles (EVs) in the University's fleet.
- b. The goals outlined in the recommendation are the considerations of the following –
 - i. A percentage of fleet vehicles should be converted to EVs based on the average number of employee trips.
 - ii. A one-time funding request for the installation of sufficient EV chargers.
 - iii. A third party partnership for leasing/purchasing of EVs should be pursued.
 - iv. The University should discourage the use of personal vehicles for University business for both insurance and reimbursement rate reasons.
 - v. Transportation Services will work with employees to recommend EVs if their trip is within the mileage coverage of an EV.
- c. Renting an EV from Motor Pool within this system will not be free of charge – departments will be reimbursed for their use of EVs.
- d. Each year, over \$1 million is reimbursed to employees using their personal vehicles for University business.
- e. The term “policy” at the University is convoluted and entails a certain approval process, so perhaps this document should rather be called a “recommendation”.
 - i. Recommendation to bring a broader range of transportation options to employees.
- f. Aaron will come back to the committee with revised language in the future.
 - i. Members will be able to sign the memo as a committee at a future meeting.

5. Denver Sustainability Summit

- a. Jocelyn is working full steam ahead on National Western Center with the passing of measure 2C on the Denver ballot, which extended a lodging tax to bring the project more funding.
- b. The City of Denver's Office is hosting a sustainability conference focusing on the effective management of water, materials, energy, and mobility in the City.
 - i. The Summit is meant to bring businesses and entities together, not only to discuss issues but also to commit to sustainability initiatives.
 - ii. Jocelyn would like to share some of CSU's initiatives to use as an example of a tangible commitment.
 - iii. Jocelyn will start with the short-term CAP goals but all other ideas are welcome.
 - iv. The event will be held on December 3rd at the University of Denver and anyone is welcome to attend.

6. White House Climate Day of Action

- a. In preparation for the Conference on Climate Change in Paris at the end of November, the White House created a pledge for Universities to sign a commitment towards.
- b. CSU is a signatory University and will be featured by the White House as such.
- c. The general pledge that CSU endorsed is as follows –
 - i. *As institutions of higher education we applaud the progress already made to promote clean energy and climate action as we seek a comprehensive, ambitious agreement at the upcoming United Nations Climate Negotiations in Paris. Although we are optimistic*

that world leaders will reach an agreement to secure a transition to a low-carbon future, we recognize the urgent need to act now to avoid irreversible costs to our global community's economic prosperity and public health. Today our school pledges to accelerate the transition to low-carbon energy while enhancing sustainable and resilient practices across our campuses.

- d. The other considerations from CSU found in the pledge include –
 - i. Colorado State University recognizes that increasing pressures of a growing population and a changing climate make sustaining and enhancing the environment, ensuring human well-being, and balancing economic growth from a social justice lens a top priority. In keeping with our land grant mission and long history of environmental education, research, and engagement, and with the leadership of the Colorado State University President's Sustainability Committee, we pledge to:
 - ii. As part of our Climate Action Plan, reduce our net carbon emissions 75% by 2030 and 100% by 2050.
 - iii. Collaborate with more than 50,000 climate scientists around the world by co-hosting the
 - iv. U.S. hub of Future Earth, a 10-year global interdisciplinary research initiative designed to provide the knowledge needed to support transformations toward sustainability. Future Earth will contribute to achieving goals on global sustainable development as called for at the United Nations (UN) Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and subsequently articulated under the auspices of the UN General Assembly.
 - v. In support of our Bicycle Friendly University Platinum designation and our Master Transportation Plan, expand the number of bike parking spaces on campus to 18,000 by Fall 2017 (1.8 bike rack spaces for every 1 car parking space on campus).
 - vi. In support of the sustainability-related majors and minors across all eight colleges and the interdisciplinary School of Global Environmental Sustainability, create opportunities for active and experiential learning in every major and in a broad range of co-curricular activities.
- e. There will be a live stream of the ceremony and more details will be available soon

7. Updates from Members

Kelsey Silver – ASCSU is looking to create an Alternative Transportation Fee Advisory Board to increase alternative transportation options for students. It has not yet been approved by Senate but hopefully will be soon.

Tim Broderick – The Green Warrior Campaign recently ended and though the final numbers are not yet calculated, it looks like the campaign saw at least an 18.9% reduction in energy use in the residence halls with participating students. Also, the Housing and Dining Sustainability funds is currently accepting projects proposals for funding.

Jacob Kimicek – Jacob's job at the Student Sustainability Center will soon become available as Jacob transitions out.

Jocelyn Hittle – A parking study is underway at the National Western Center and Jocelyn will begin collecting data in January during the stock show for a greenhouse gas baseline. Also, Jocelyn has been working with a team of 6 civil engineering students to pull heat from effluent pipes within the complex.

Sheela Backen – The EPA is looking for a venue to present the Waste Wise award, which was given to CSU for waste diversion in 2014. The trash audit in the spring might be a good venue.

Aaron Fodge – CSU was recently designated a platinum level Bicycle Friendly University. Also, Aaron has secured a grant to fund the installation of two dual electric chargers at the Research Blvd parking lot.

Tony Rappe – 8% of CSU's carbon footprint is associated with flying and 7% is transportation in general. Likely, a lot of the flying is for faculty going to seminars. Tony is going to research this.

Tonie Miyamoto – A Student Support Rally was held at the Administration Building in recognition of the struggles at Mizzou. CSU’s definition of sustainability includes social justice so it is good to see conversations in progress about this issue.

Carol Dollard – The Sustainability Summit for Cities was also happening at the same time as the ASSHE Conference, also in Minneapolis. Carol will soon be sending a drone over the great green to get new images of the solar arrays on high-profile buildings.

