

## President's Sustainability Committee

Minutes

September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 1:00-2:30 pm

TILT 104

**Members Present:** Carol Dollard – Facilities Management  
Tonie Miyamoto - Housing and Dining Services, Student Affairs  
Stacey Baumgarn - Facilities Management and Classified Personnel Council  
Bill Timpson – College of Health and Human Sciences  
Mark Ritschard – College of Engineering  
Kirstie Tedrick – STARS Intern  
Tony Rappe – College of Natural Sciences  
Emily Taylor – Student Sustainability Center  
Hanna Johnson – ASCSU  
Aleta Weller – SoGES  
Ecoleader Representatives  
Mary Guiden – Public Relations  
Ann Bohm Small – Administrative Professional Council  
Jake Drenth – Surplus Property  
Paul Doherty – Faculty Council  
Chanin Tilakamonkul – Facilities Management  
Brian Dunbar – Institute for the Built Environment  
Esther Duke – Warner College of Natural Resources

### 1. Jacqui Patterson

- a. Jacqui Patterson is the Director of the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program.
- b. Since 2007, Patterson has served as coordinator & co-founder of Women of Color United. Jacqui Patterson has worked as a researcher, program manager, coordinator, advocate and activist working on women's rights, violence against women, HIV&AIDS, racial justice, economic justice, and environmental and climate justice. Patterson served as a Senior Women's Rights Policy Analyst for ActionAid where she integrated a women's rights lens for the issues of food rights, macroeconomics, and climate change as well as the intersection of violence against women and HIV&AIDS.
- c. Jacqui will give a keynote speech at the Diversity Symposium and she will meet with the President's Cabinet.
  - i. President Frank, at his Fall Address, stressed the importance of both sustainability and diversity and has mentioned that he takes these issues as seriously as he does budget issues.
- d. Jacqui is often asked "Why is the NAACP working on climate change? Where is the commonality between that and social justice?"
  - i. Jacqui's response is that climate resilience lies in the center of racial justice.
- e. 68% of African Americans live 30 miles within a coal burning power plant. Native Americans and Latinos also face this reality.
  - i. Who gets what resources to address climate issues?
- f. Jacqui mentioned a book written by Robert D. Bullard and Beverly Wright called *The Wrong Complexion for Protection*. This book outlines many ties between climate resilience and racial justice.
  - i. For example, after Hurricane Isaac, the US Army Core of Engineers shared their formula for the fortification of the levee system in Louisiana.
  - ii. The formula is based on the economic impact on levies should they be overtaken.
  - iii. The poorest people, usually African American, are automatically hurt the most by this system. The economic impact to low income and minority groups is institutionalized under this system.
- g. Jacqui gave another example of these intersections of climate resilience and racial justice.

- i. In East Chicago, a housing project 98% occupied by African Americans, was built on a former lead smelter site.
    - ii. 1,100 people were recently tested and were found to have lead levels 228x the EPA allowable rate.
    - iii. Profits are valued over human lives.
  - h. Jacqui and her team are actively working on a new program, a Resilience Convening.
    - i. The convening will unite 15 communities around the country to host demonstration projects of resilience.
    - ii. These projects will include green schools, waste diversion, equity based disaster resilience, independent food production, social cohesion.
    - iii. Jacqui will work with these communities to highlight their resources for resilience.
    - iv. Pueblo, Colorado will be one of these 15 participating communities.
  - i. Are there schools and universities tied to these projects?
    - i. Yes, community/campus partnerships emerge out of Jacqui's work.
    - ii. After being on campus for only a short time, Jacqui took note of the living wage issue that seems to have traction among Administration. She has seen this issue directly impact people of color and she is impressed to see this issue is being discussed across the University.
    - iii. It was suggested that potential areas/projects that might make compelling partnerships with Jacqui's group are the National Western Center redevelopment.
    - iv. In her experience, working with department heads is the most effective way to create change in a department.
  - j. There are some communities in Colorado that are diverse, low income, and conservative. How can these different dynamics be balanced?
    - i. Jacqui's process in guiding communities to economic resilience begins with a planning and visioning session, in which communities are asked to envision their ideal community.
    - ii. Then, the conversation turns to identifying the assets of the community and the threats to the vision.
    - iii. The process is interwoven and the community begins to see the intersectionality of issues.
  - k. Jacqui's work also incorporates social cohesion.
    - i. Social Cohesion is movement built on social norms that conflict between groups. Anti-oppression conversations are crucial to understanding the different perspectives of oppression.
    - ii. To tow the fine line between science and activism, Jacqui uses impartial data to state her cases.
  - l. How does your work interact with the Black Lives Matter movement?
    - i. Policy working groups are working with Jacqui to integrate the framing of Black Lives Matter into environmental justice development.
    - ii. Weather people of color are dying from being shot or from pollution exposure, the Environmental Justice section of NAACP is committed to changing the undervaluation of lives based on ethnicity.

## 2. STARS Credit Review

- a. Tonie and Carol recently presented the PSC's Strategic Plan to Cabinet.
- b. Cabinet will have an opportunity for feedback before adopting the plan.
- c. Then, the plan will be treated as a living document and develop a system with Lynn Johnson for how best to review/adopt additions and edits moving forward.
- d. The plan can be accessed here - <http://greenwarrior.colostate.edu/strategic-plan.PDF>
- e. Data for the STARS 2.1 report is actively being collected.
- f. The platinum submission from 2015 was heavily scrutinized and Tonie anticipates similar scrutiny on the new submission.
- g. Academic department chairs will soon receive an email with a link to a database listing sustainability focused and related courses within their department. Department heads can edit, add, or delete a course from this database.

- i. Tonie and Kirstie will be able to track the changes/deletions.
  - ii. Sustainability related courses are defined by AASHE's definition of sustainability.
  - iii. Department Heads will be able to add courses that might not be in the course catalog.
  - iv. Education Abroad will be contacted to ensure their courses are captured in this database.
  - v. There is another database for non-credit courses, which will be distributed after the credit course database.
- h. Innovation Credits –
  - i. Up to 3 Innovation Credits can be claimed on the STARS report.
  - ii. These credits are focused around programs, partnerships, initiatives, etc. that don't fit in any other category of the report but deserve recognition.
  - iii. The last report claimed the Powerhouse Campus as an innovation credit.
  - iv. Send ideas to Tonie, Carol, or Kirstie.
- i. The STARS Leadership team will review the data collected thus far next week.
- j. The PSC will be updated about the status of the report.
- k. Ideally, the report will be submitted in November. AASHE then has 30 days to review and ask for clarification and then CSU has 30 days to respond.
  - i. Ideally, the response from CSU will fall in January, over Winter Break.
  - ii. Other reporting systems, like Sierra Club and Princeton Review require submission in February.
  - iii. There is a possibility to delay Princeton Review and Sierra Club reporting if the STARS report feels unfinished in February.
  - iv. The required submission date for STARS is March of 2018.

### 3. Updates from Members

**Carol Dollard** – Carol is finalizing the University's GHG footprint, which will be about 280,800 metric tons. Electricity use is down and the grid is getting greener so the emissions factor decreased. Carol is also involved in preliminary discussions about an expansion of solar, which will help achieve CAP goals.

**Brian Dunbar** – IBE is working with the stadium planning team to identify the sustainability initiatives of the University, to highlight within the stadium. He is working on identifying the locations and content of the signage.

**Emily Taylor** – ASCSU and the Student Sustainability Center are building a coalition to engage student clubs to align with campus sustainability month. Emily is also working on the Nitrogen Footprint project.

**Hanna Johnson** – Hanna has a collection of petitions from students for the University to endorse the Climate Realities Project. Dr. Frank also has the pledge and Hanna will send him the petitions to keep momentum.

**Andrew Warnock** – Andrew is the Keynote Speaker at the Best of Both Worlds International Conference on Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development in Estes Park next week.

**NEXT MEETING – Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-2:30 pm in TILT 104.**