

# Sustainability Committee Meeting – October 14, 2019

- **Attendees:** Joel Tonyan, Linda Kogan, Nate Siebert, Marie Hoerner, Victoria Beplay (SEAS rep), Niki Juhl, Maggie Gaddis, Dan Hutchison, Robin Margolin, David Havlick, Christine Biermann, Kimberly Reeve, Marcus Ornelas, Heather Roth, Amy Waneck
  
- **Announcements**
  - At the Faculty Assembly Meeting on Friday Oct 10, Chancellor Reddy attended and was asked about sustainability in Strategic Plan. His answer indicated that sustainability is on his radar for the strategic plan, and it may be featured to a greater degree than anticipated.
  - Office of Sustainability:
    - Regents Meeting either Oct 17 or 18. Each campus will be presenting re: Sustainability. Kent Marsh will be presenting for UCCS. Board of Regents interested in having more consistency re: sustainability across the campuses.
    - PIPS is doing well in its inaugural year.
    - 10/15 Workshop (10-12, 1-3) on energy efficiency
    - Wednesday 10/16, 2:30pm at Kettle Creek: showing of *Beaver Believers*
    - 11/21 Sustainability Summit in Berger Hall, with CSU faculty Jennie Cross as keynote speaker
    - Office of Sustainability is developing a proposal to establish a Sustainability Center at UCCS. The current proposal has been sent (by Linda Kogan) to George Cheney for edits.
    - Earth Day April 2020 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. All are encouraged to think about how to participate, and what we might want to do as a committee.
  - SGA Sustainability Senator: previous senator has stepped down from that role.
  - Green Action Fund Student Representative: Alex Jobe, Project Coordinator
    - Encourage students, staff, faculty to develop sustainability-related projects through GAF.
  - SEAS Student Representative: Victoria Beplay, VP of SEAS.
    - SEAS has organized into different sub-groups focusing on the Colorado Springs community, campus (e.g. divestment), and individual personal actions. They have already participated in the Youth Climate Strike and developed a recycling game for Homecoming.
  - Robin Margolin: Food insecurity update regarding Dining and Clyde's Cupboard
    - Mountain Lion Meals: Students can go to Dean's office or Wellness Center if they are in need, and they are given a coupon to eat in the Lodge or the Roaring Fork Dining Hall.
    - Hoping to get a blast-chiller to distribute catering leftovers through Clyde's Cupboard. Working with development to hopefully get a donor on board.
  - Niki Juhl: Suzanne cook had suggested *Paris to Pittsburgh* film about solutions to environmental problems. The company brings the film to campuses, and there might be interest in having a screening on campus.

- Compass Curriculum may be willing to cover the cost of the screening and Q+A.
- **Strategic Planning Brainstorming**
  - Committee broke into groups to brainstorm sustainability strategic plan ideas.
    - Operations (Energy, Water, Buildings, Landscape)
    - Operations (Food, Purchasing, Zero Waste)
    - Education and Research
    - Leadership
  - Linda Kogan: Compared to previous sustainability strategic plans, we may be able to streamline this new one with a focus on higher-level goals.
  - If we are to bring this to the administration, we need full campus buy-in.
    - Reaching out to SGA
    - Reaching out to administration to ensure that the work we put in is worthwhile
      - If this plan is going to truly be a plan for the entire campus, we need to be communicating early and often with the administration
    - Timeline: first reach out to SGA, then reach out to administration.
- **Brainstorming Ideas**
  - **Operations (Energy, Waste, Buildings, Landscape)**
    - *Energy*
      - Installation of additional solar panels on building roofs
        - Assess utility reports for existing buildings with solar (Gallogly is almost net zero)
        - Look at EBSCO Solar grant (\$100,000) for installation of solar panels on library roof
          - Highly dependent on library receiving a new roof
            - Current condition is prohibitive but state architect witnessed leaks and moved building up in priority list
      - New building commitments to solar
      - Reduce overall utility usage (increasing year over year)
      - Energy performance contracts
      - A revolving fund for energy efficiency savings – basically, as new energy efficiency projects are implemented, the savings from these projects are put into a fund, which can then fund further energy savings projects
    - *Waste*
      - Full circle composting
        - Current composting doesn't come stay on or return to campus
    - *Grounds*
      - More xeriscaping
      - More efficient irrigation and reduced irrigation and water usage
      - Weed control – what is being used? Roundup? Examine sustainable alternatives
      - Use compost generated by campus in campus grounds
  - **Operations (Food, Purchasing, Zero Waste)**

- *Food*
    - Bottled water – Continued education
    - Reduce sugary beverages
  - *Purchasing*
    - Remove fair trade
    - Use certification standards
  - *Waste*
    - Waste minimization – focus on reusable and reduce contamination
    - Increased infrastructure
    - Closed loop of compost and/or on campus composting
    - Recycling MRF on/near campus and in-house hauling
- **Education and Research**
  - Emphasize sustainability in recruitment efforts, including campus marketing and advising
  - Incorporate UN Sustainable Development Goals in curriculum
    - Workshops for faculty from faculty already doing this
  - Work with the Office of Research and the Office of Student Research to greater emphasize/promote student and faculty research around sustainability
  - Work with admissions to better promote the Sustainability Minor
- **Leadership**
  - Still working to have sustainability included as a core value of the university, and for sustainability link to be on homepage of the UCCS website.
  - Reaffirm ACUPCC Commitments – any need to strengthen these?
  - Create measurable, required components for sustainability at UCCS that are tied into the Campus Strategic Plan revisions (perhaps use Diversity and Inclusiveness requirements [e.g. Diversity Champion req.] as a model.
    - This is currently listed as an action item under A-II in existing Sustainability Strategic Plan (Leadership, pg. 2)
    - A-II – top of pg. 3 also points to this and should be further pursued.