

Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes, February 15, 2021

Attendance:

Joel Tonyan, Cynthia Norton, Margaret Gaddis, Suzanne Cook, Sudhanshu Semwal, Christine Biermann, Kimberly Reeves, Tracy Gonzalez Padron, Kevin Laudner, Robin Margolin, Elissa Stobaugh, Vaughn Love, Jaymee Collins, Dylan Harris, Marcus Ornelas II, Emily Shelton, Nanna Meyer, Marie Hoerner

- **Announcements and Updates**

- *Office of Sustainability*

- Just submitted STARS this morning, on track for Gold again
 - Learning Outcomes are improved, 77% of students had a sustainability learning outcome, 8/8 points

1539	Total Number of Undergraduate Courses
75	Total Number of Courses Sustainability-Focused
71	Total Number of Courses Sustainability-Inclusive
715	Total Number of Graduate Courses
20	Total Number of Courses Sustainability-Focused
25	Total Number of Courses Sustainability-Inclusive
29	Total Number of Academic Departments
25	Total Number of Academic Departments with Sustainability Course Offerings

- - 32 faculty currently conducting sustainability research, an impressive amount of research!
 - We should highlight this at a future event to gather all these folks

- Ticket diversion program coming up this semester
 - Met with colleagues at other CU campuses
 - Program to donate forward unused meal plan money
 - We have Mountain Lion Meals, which is different, but offers a similar value to students in need
 - Climate Justice plan in development at Boulder
 - Fri, 4/23 11-1 <https://sustain.uccs.edu/get-involved/creek-week-clean-stream>
 - Tree Planting | TBD, but potentially 4/17 + 4/24 + 5/1 <https://sustain.uccs.edu/get-involved/150-trees>

- *Sustainability Minor*

- Kimberly and Christine met with PPCC fac/staff about two associate degree programs related to sustainability, working on platform to help those students transfer into UCCS
 - Maggie Gaddis is teaching the final class of the sustainability minor, GES 4800 Capstone seminar

- *SWELL*

- SWELL students going back to dining, a SWELL meal will be served once a week at Roaring Fork
 - Reintegration of students back into the farm
 - Plans on having SWELL students meet with Jamie about the farm in March
 - Food Next Door
 - Has focused on Meals of Change, and that will continue
 - Food Next Door menus will be more integrated into dining
 - Grain School Online
 - <https://essential.cu.edu/impact-reports/onward/uccs-grain>
 - Going very well in its inaugural semester
 - Whole grain transitions with other institutions
 - First forum was held on February 8, over 250 people attended
 - Nanna will share link to watch recorded forum
 - Next forum on March 6
 - Sign up and info:
 - https://www.canva.com/design/DAETaTozhPM/Hk7Dkl4hyKwMSly7i5Mhwg/view?utm_content=DAETaTozhPM&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=publishsharelink
 - Farm Subscription on hold but will come back as temperatures warm
- Green Action Fund
 - Website is updated with all 135+ projects funded since 2012
<https://gaf.uccs.edu/projects/projects-funded>
 - Black Forest Art Installation – Contact Daisy McGowan
<https://gaf.uccs.edu/projects/projects-funded/black-forest-art-installation>
 - EcoWaxer; located at SOLE Center <https://gaf.uccs.edu/projects/projects-funded/ski-snowboard-ecowaxer>
- 2021 Campus Sustainability Award Nominations due Monday, March 1
- **New Sustainability Committee website** (thanks, Kimberly!)
 - <https://sustain.uccs.edu/get-involved/sustainability-committee>
- **EBSCO Solar Grant**
 - <https://www.ebsco.com/solar>
 - Total of \$200,000 available
 - Application due May 3rd
 - *Team working on the Grant:*
 - Joel Tonyan (Library)
 - Kimberly Reeves (Office of Sustainability)
 - Wendy Kisicki (Library)
 - Julia Bullock (Library)
 - Caitlin Wolusky (Library)
 - Lynette Galletta (Engineering/Arch Program Manager)
 - Kayla Mulkin (senior, SGA Senator of Sustainability)
 - *Met with Carolyn Fox, University Architect*
 - Supportive of the project

- Library getting new roof this summer
 - Said the Library's rooftop is ideal for solar infrastructure because it gets lots of sun and has open areas for panels: <https://tinyurl.com/v7nxs4to>
- **Strategic Planning Updates**
 - *Meeting with Kent Marsh on January 14*
 - Believes the timing is perfect because it aligns with the new CU Strategic Plan, which includes a **Deferred Maintenance and Sustainability** strategic metric under **Pillar 4: Fiscal Strength** <https://www.cu.edu/strategic-metrics>
 - Encouraged us to develop a vision of where we want to be and connect it with the strategic plan at the system level
 - Also, suggested and scheduled meeting with EAB consultants
 - We also discussed our concerns about sustainability "backsliding" on campus due to the pandemic environment
 - *Meeting with EAB consultations (<https://eab.com>) on February 4*
 - We should use the sustainability commitments required by the new CU Strategic Plan as our starting point
 - Connect the new plan with the UN Sustainable Development Goals
 - Map our goals to their goals
 - We need to be touting our Gold STARS rating and comparing it with our competitors and use it to build support for the new plan
 - Our 2012 plan was very ambitious regarding transportation.
 - Carry over realistic goals
 - Business travel pledge
 - New commitment made by university: Replacing one diesel powered bus with electric every five years
 - Procurement should figure heavily in the plan
 - EDI should figure heavily into the plan
 - Should the plan have a five-year timespan, with the exception of carbon neutral goals?
 - Invited us to attend Sustainability Roundtables
 - <https://eab.com/event/ff-2021-how-higher-education/>
 - *Next Steps*
 - Have the Working Groups meet during next meeting
 - Give each working group a task and then have everyone come together and report back
 - Zoom versus Teams? Joel will send out a poll