

Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2019

Attendees: Joel Tonyan, Christine Biermann, David Havlick, Brandon Bishop, Cynthia Norton, Niki Juhl, Marcus Ornelas, Brandon Goldstein, Heather Roth, Robert Mitchell, Amy Wanek, Robin Margolin, Marie Hoerner, Julie Weller, Nate Siebert, Nanna Meyer, Krista Loos, Suzanne Cook, Linda Kogan

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Discuss Sept. 27th Sustainability Fall Social at the Sustainability Demonstration House from 3-6pm**
 - This will be a drop-in, informal event to showcase all that is going on sustainability-wise at UCCS (Green Action Fund, Farm, Sustainability Demonstration House, Sustainability Minor, SEAS, etc.) and to attract new members to our committee.
- **Brief overview of committee's charge and look at committee's Teams account**
 - All members should have access to Teams account.
 - Looking at our charge: This is a Regular Standing Advisory Committee of the UCCS Faculty Assembly. We have access to faculty assembly but cannot vote. We believe this is the only Standing Advisory Committee that cannot vote.
 - Committee open to faculty, staff, and students, with the goal of being as representative a body as possible.
 - Voting: Discussion of voting privileges, which members have them, and when voting will occur. We are interpreting the bylaws as meaning that only full-time TT and NTT faculty can vote on curricular matters, or perhaps matters related to Faculty Assembly, but all members are able to vote and express input on committee matters.
 - Specific voting mechanisms will be discussed later.
- **Updates from the Office of Sustainability**
 - *Launch of Positive Impact Points program (a partnership with PIPs b-corp)*
 - 10 days in: 552 student users, 22,000+ actions taken, 50,000 PIPs awards, 531 pounds of CO2 avoided, refilling of water bottles is the most popular action.
 - This app-based program rewards student users for doing positive things.
 - PIPs for Education: students can use their PIPS awards for scholarship/book money, and the program will double/triple the award.
 - UCCS is second school to sign onto this program; CU Boulder the first.
 - How is this funded? We (UCCS) sign a contract with PIPs, paid \$30,000 for the first year from the Office of Sustainability. Then, \$30,000 [potentially] comes back in tuition. The PIPs firm (external) goes out to companies and gets awards donated or works out partnerships with particular terms.
 - At CU Boulder, environmental center funded it for one year, then it was so successful that it was funded later because it successfully promotes engagement, and engagement promotes retention.
 - At CU Boulder, about 40% of awards used for food, about 40% for tuition.
 - You can send in trivia questions to add to the PIPs app.
 - *Sustainability Summit: November 21, 2019 (Thursday) in Berger Hall*
 - Keynote Speaker: Jennie Cross.

- Will highlight what's happening on campus sustainability-wise.
 - Anyone who wants to present should contact the Office of Sustainability.
- **What do we hope to accomplish as a committee this year?**
 - Discussion of the future of last year's subcommittees. Suggestion that subgroups will be more project-oriented, once we have identified specific goals/tasks.
 - Worth looking into what ideas previous year's subgroups have generated. Those ideas might inform what we work on this year.
 - What has the committee done in the past?
 - Revised requirements for the Sustainability Minor, created clearer learning objectives (2015-2016)
 - Food-related work: This committee facilitated the transition to self-operation of dining system away from corporate structure, provided foundation of SWELL.
 - Getting sustainability added to the Compass curriculum requirements
 - Event Services and Library have "green teams" focused on sustainability in their operations and procurement
 - Kayla Cutter, a new staff member in sustainable procurement, has recently been hired by CU system. She will be at UCCS for a procurement event later in September.
 - Goals and dreams
 - Solar panels on the library: Ebsco (library vendor) has grants available to provide funds to help put solar panels on library.
 - Could a subcommittee work on applying for this?
 - Could we better support existing student groups on their projects?
 - Panel within Sustainability Summit that brings together different faculty teaching sustainability courses. Perhaps centered around UN goals?
 - Sharing resources around field trips, etc.
 - Could this be a deeper dive funded with \$ from Compass Curriculum?
 - 9/21: There will be a check-in event with Compass Curriculum about where Compass is headed.
 - Event at Mountain Lion Teaching Days in January?
 - Connection with Undergraduate Research Center involving students that do sustainability-related research
 - Transparency about food waste at university dining halls, helping students sort food waste and then measuring waste and displaying numbers on a banner in dining halls. Measuring this over time to track progress. (Brandon)
 - Reduction of plate sizes?
 - Waste audits have been done before. At CU Boulder, classes would undertake this process.
 - Food waste in catering is also an issue. How can resources be recovered? Can food be brought back to support food-insecure students?
 - Robin Margolin: We need funds (\$60-80K) for a blast chiller to take leftovers from catering, chill them, and package them for Clyde's Cupboard.

- **Creating a Shared Blueprint to guide the committee's work this year and beyond**
 - Need for a new strategic plan around Sustainability.
 - If ideas are enshrined into a plan, it allows us to then point to that plan when pursuing projects. Helps maintain momentum around sustainability.
 - Discussion of the possibility for committee to author its own strategic plan.
 - Time frame? 10 years?
 - Much of the framework is already complete (from previous Sustainability Strategic Plan).
 - Open up beyond committee? Loop in students to ensure that it reflects aims of entire campus.
 - SGA could also push forward resolution related to a strategic plan or the goals within it.
 - At our next meeting: a discussion of the sustainability planning process, discussion of ideas/goals that we have, look at old Sustainability Strategic Plan.
 - Linda will add existing Sustainability Strategic Plan to Teams.