

## Sustainability Meeting Jan 30th, 2017

UCCS Farmhouse

Attendees: Linda Kogan, Kevin Gilford, Mark Hayes, Russ Saunkeah, Cynthia Norton, Joel Tonyan, Carole Huber, Tom Huber, Tracy Gonzales-Padron, George Cheney, Steve Jennings, Nanna Meyer

1. Sustainability, Wellness, and Learning (SWELL) in the class room: Food Next Door, UCCS's local food station, serves up healthy, locally grown and student-prepared meals on Tuesday and Wednesday at Cafe 65 (11 AM to 2 PM). This is an extraordinary effort from our campus farm to table with a transparent supply chain, local and organic food, and, at times, a 0-mile radius. There is also interest in promoting Food Literacy/Health Literacy on campus through with graduate students who run Food Next Door and the Flying Carrot Food Literacy Project, with the latter supporting the educational efforts on campus and in the community. While tabling outside the Food Next Door venue is an effective means to increase awareness for locally grown food on campus, there is interest to offer class visits. These visits could be short, 20 minutes at the most, with graduate students briefly presenting the ideas and services related to Food Next Door, the Flying Carrot, Food Literacy program, UCCS Farm, and Farmhouse Fridays (living learning lab for cooking, gardening, and farming). This may be a fun, flavorful and attractive way to educate students about the link between sustainability and health through local food. The students would bring a taster to class and flyers with more information. In the sustainability meeting several options for greater integration were discussed. These are listed below:
  - a. Library event with support of SWELL food
  - b. Several classes identified, including GPS
  - c. Orientation joint tabling with Sustainability Office
  - d. For more information and how to request a class or program visit by the SWELL team please contact Nanna Meyer (nmeyer2@uccs.edu)
2. Sustainnovate – The Future of Water in the West – Expanded symposium with 2 tracks tied to and partially funded by Compass Curriculum – please share with students
  - a. March 7, Chad Pregracke – 2014 CNN Hero of the Year, Founder Living Lands and Water, presentation and book signing – 7-8:30 Berger Hall. Student meeting with Chad 5:30-6:30 UC 302.
  - b. March 8<sup>th</sup>, Full day 10 am -6:30 p.m. Registration at [tinyurl.com/SustainnovateH2O](http://tinyurl.com/SustainnovateH2O). Schedule and session descriptions will be sent out to faculty and staff
  - c. Content will be more academic with faculty members as champions to reach out to other faculty teaching Compass Curriculum Sustainability flagged courses.
  - d. In search of a winter sport athlete to increase students' awareness of snow/water/nature connections in winter sport environments
3. Sustainability Award. Please send nominations to nmeyer2@uccs.edu by March 16<sup>th</sup>.
4. Transition time at UCCS. The committee discussed various strategies on how to raise awareness regarding the past and current commitments in sustainability. Chancellor

Shockley-Zalabak signed the ACUPCC (Climate Commitment) in 2007. Sustainability Commitments can be found in the following documents.

- American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment and UCCS Climate Action Plan - <http://www.uccs.edu/Documents/sustain/560-cap.1.pdf>
- UCCS Sustainability Strategic Plan 2020 <http://www.uccs.edu/Documents/sustain/SustainabilityStrategicPlan-Final.pdf>

In addition, the committee discussed to highlight campus initiatives, classes, and events and communicate priorities going forward (eg., sustainability becoming a UCCS core value, developing a sustainable energy plan, focusing on sustainable transportation, increasing local food procurement). A great model as to the integration of sustainability as a core value should be considered from Colorado State University, CSU <http://green.colostate.edu>.

- a. Both a transition (written, executive summary) and outreach plan (active engagement) were discussed and are being implemented.
  - b. Further opportunities to strengthen UCCS's sustainability efforts were also discussed (eg., Regents for faculty input in vision statement; compass curriculum and assessment data, highlighting campus research efforts, and promoting more innovation with experiential learning)
5. Sustainability Strategic Planning Workshop: UCCS Sustainability Strategic Plan is 4 years in out of 8 years. The committee and the Sustainability Office are currently conducting an assessment to determine progress and identify areas that need more focus and support. The Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System, STARS, is due in 12 months. UCCS is currently at the lower end of STARS Gold level and we hope to achieve a high STARS Gold or even a Platinum rating. The Sustainability Office and Campus Sustainability Committee will identify areas for improvement and data collection and reach out to departments throughout campus over the next 7 months. UCCS does very well in the academic section, especially due to the new General Education requirement of sustainability. There is some room for improvement with regard to sustainability research including tracking, and incentive programs. The second workshop was postponed to a later sustainability meeting in the semester due to current transition time at UCCS.

Sustainability Committee meets again **February 27<sup>th</sup>, 11.30am-1pm** at the UCCS Farmhouse.