Sustainability Charter Committee Minutes

Wednesday, May 13 2020 @ 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM via Zoom

**Present:** Matthieu Biger, Michelle Fravel, Erin Irish, Laurie Ponto, Emily Manders, Melissa Meisterheim, Megan Lindmark, Sam Schauer, Heather Sander

**Absent**: Isabella Blackman, Jenna Hammerich, Julia Krist

**Ex Officio:** Glen Rogers, Scott Seagren

**Liaisons:** Stratis Giannakouros (OSE)

**Staff:** Blake Rupe

**Guests:** Jen Miller, Montse Fuentes, Sabi Singh

1. Committee Membership Update
   1. Students Emily, Megan, and Joe will continue as committee members; there is one remaining vacancy for student representation
2. Office of Sustainability Updates (Stratis Giannakouros)
   1. Research opportunities
      1. COVID/sustainability research ideas will be supported by the office if there is interest
      2. Provost investment fund ideas due June 15
         1. Interdisciplinary ideas receiving preference
         2. Consider submission of sustainability ideas
   2. Sustainability report for the Board of Regents has been submitted
3. 2030 Goals
   1. The goals have been published
      1. Goals that can be acted on now include:
         1. Creation of a Living Lab: capitalizing on the riverfront access unique to the University of Iowa
         2. It is hopeful that the planned emissions inventory will still occur as scheduled
         3. Work on changing culture (hospital, dorms, etc.)
         4. Academic Goals (inclusion of sustainability in general education requirements)
4. Letter regarding ANF advertisement within Iowa Athletics
   1. Letter was sent to President Harreld on April 29, no response yet at this time
5. End of the year committee report
   1. The committee agreed that the report is accurate and reflective on the year
   2. The suggestion was made to list out and summarize each of the task forces sections to more fully display the scale of accomplishments
6. UIHC Visitors: Jen Miller and Sabi Singh, COO
   1. Current sustainability focus at UIHC includes the Healthier Hospitals Initiative
   2. They have established a partnership with a new hazardous waste vendor and are working to develop staff training for changes in waste disposal process
   3. Currently seeking a new UIHC sustainability student intern
   4. Food and nutrition continues to be very active in date driven waste minimization efforts
   5. They are supportive of positive inclusion of sustainability in strategic plan/vision to embed as a pillar
7. Provost Visit: Montse Fuentes
   1. The president’s office is excited to embed sustainability into all aspects of the university, beyond just operations. For example, inclusion of sustainability as a general education requirement is a focus.
   2. Sustainability focused accomplishments thus far include provision of a seed grant, support of a sustainability database, and creation of a workshop series.
   3. There is support to move toward integration of sustainability in our university academic mission which may start with inclusion in the strategic plans across colleges.
   4. Opportunities for the committee to move along this agenda include:
      1. Articulating why sustainability is a path for distinction for U of I
      2. Engaging Deans and the university-wide strategic plan group in discussions

Next meeting: June 12 @ 9:30-11:00 am via zoom with President Harreld as a visitor