Sustainability Charter Committee Minutes

Wednesday, April 8 2020 @ 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM via Zoom

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

**Absent**: Isabella Blackman, Jenna Hammerich, Heather Sander, Samuel Schauer

**Ex Officio:** Richard Hichwa, Glen Rogers

**Liaisons:** Stratis Giannakouros (OSE)

**Staff:** Blake Rupe (OSE)

1. Teach-In Update (Erin Irish)
   1. Events cancelled due to COVID-19; the University has advised to return donations; response received so far suggests that contributors will be happy to contribute when the event occurs in the future. As of now, it is anticipated that this will be held Spring 2021.
   2. In terms of speakers, only one pair of speakers were undergraduates so it is hopeful that speakers will not be lost. Furthermore, there was strong interest when soliciting speakers so finding speakers in the future should not be an issue
   3. Planning the 2020 event was done in just three months, with over a year to plan for an offering next year, there is opportunity to grow the event further
   4. A formal thank you and congratulations extended to Erin Irish for what she was able to accomplish in creating this event in terms of funding and networking
2. Sustainability during COVID-19 pandemic
   1. Messaging on sustainability efforts to be delayed
      1. Currently, the focus of the campus and community is on supporting health/survival goals
   2. ‘Business-as-usual’ has been upended in all realms; when timing is appropriate, highlighting sustainability benefits associated with alternate practices may be an opportunity to promote sustainability efforts
   3. Examples include: hospitals adopting telehealth, foot traffic increasing, changes in overall patterns of consumption (ex. Exclusive online purchasing vs. local purchasing)
   4. Ideally, intentional decisions related to maintenance vs. abandonment of these short-term approaches will be made to promote sustainability among other considerations (ensuring support of local businesses, etc.)
3. P3 Implementation
   1. Formal transaction occurred March 2020 - unclear what the influence of the current market issues will be on financial outcomes of the partnership
   2. An experiment with pulling one boiler off line was planned for this spring and it is unclear if COVID-19 issues have prevented this from occurring; if delayed, this may interfere with coal-free goals.
4. Modified Future Sustainability Plans due to COVID-19
   1. Should a Virtual Earth Day offering be considered?
      1. The main concern is creating something that will detract from critical/urgent issues related to sustaining support of faculty, staff, and students at this time
      2. Plan: directly contact the President’s office for guidance on what is considered appropriate messaging related to sustainability at this time
   2. Strategic Plan Updates
      1. The creation of updated strategic plans throughout the University will continue and it is suggested that this is a good opportunity to advocate for sustainability objectives
      2. Suggested that committee members participate in meetings and drafting of strategic plans within their individual units where possible
   3. Capturing sustainability metrics related to the move toward virtual offerings
      1. Consider 2021 sustainability intern for ‘look-back’ at impact of telehealth at UIHC
      2. Capture impact on campus of virtual vs. in-person meetings and classes
      3. Ultimately, it would be helpful to gather sustainability data from the recent months to provide information on one front (among many) to aid in answering questions related to what activities benefit from in-person interactions and which do not
   4. Sustainability Project Ideas
      1. Committee members are encouraged to submit sustainability-related ideas to the office of sustainability as interns may be able to assist
5. Upcoming Meetings
   1. UIHC COO (Sabi Singh) and UI Provost (Montse Fuentes) – May 13 11:30 AM to 12 PM and 12 PM to 12:30 respectively
      1. Reach out to UIHC to extend offer to reschedule given COVID-19 focus
      2. Consider scheduling President Harreld on May 13 if UIHC COO unable to attend, otherwise consider president’s visit for June meeting
   2. Summer meeting schedule TBD