Sustainability Charter Committee Minutes

Friday, June 12 2020 @ 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM via Zoom

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

**Absent**: Isabella Blackman, Jenna Hammerich

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

**Liaisons:** Stratis Giannakouros (OSE), Ben Fish (FM)

**Staff:** Blake Rupe & Beth MacKenzie (OSE)

**Guests:** Bruce Harreld

1. Call to Order
2. Announcements – Open to all present
   1. New FM liaison introduced: Ben Fish
      1. P3 transition formally occurred just three months ago on March 11. Main focus is to eliminate use of fossil fuels and rely on renewable energy sources. The plan was to shut down the last boiler in August but this will be slightly delayed due to unforeseen occurrences related to COVID-19.
      2. Consideration is being given to identification or creation of a miscanthus pellet facility geographically close to Iowa City to allow for easy access to this potential energy source. Partnership with local universities or other institutions on this endeavor would be ideal, however, if others are committed to natural gas, this type of partnership may not be possible (ex. Iowa State).
   2. 2020-21 SCC membership and chair update
      1. Matthieu Biger and Erin Irish will remain co-chairs of the committee, all other members will remain on the committee as well.
3. Impromptu new business for this agenda
   1. The office of sustainability will be offering scholarships to undergraduate students with research focused on both COVID-19 and sustainability.
   2. Sustainability intern Maya Jones will be focusing on the intersection between diversity and sustainability
   3. Other students will continue efforts within USS (Underrepresented Students in Sustainability)
   4. Emily Manders will be helping to create virtual onboarding programming focused on sustainability
4. Visit from UI President Bruce Harreld
   1. Summary of 2019-20 SCC accomplishments
      1. Big 10 sustainability position statement, headed by Emily Manders, approved unanimously
      2. Ad hoc sustainability committee overseen by Rod Lehnertz was effective in allowing stakeholders across campus to weigh in on 2030 goals
      3. The Earth Day teach-in planning was successful despite cancelation due to COVID-19; efforts will hopefully result in a successful offering in 2021
   2. ANF & IFB (America Needs Farmers and Iowa Farmer’s Bureau)
      1. DEI, social justice, and sustainability: student perspective (Manders et al.)
         * There are concerns that the method with which the Iowa Farmers Bureau (IFB) utilizes the Iowa logo in advertising leads to confusion regarding the University’s stance on IFB’s messaging.
         * IFB’s stance on climate change and sustainable energy sources is not aligned with the University’s stance on these topics, therefore, it is important to ensure that the source of messaging is clear.
         * There are also concerns with regard to lack of diversity within IFB messaging, yet another example to emphasize the importance of examining the method with which the Iowa Farm Bureau (IFB) utilizes the Iowa logo in advertising to ensure there is no confusion regarding the source of the messaging.
      2. Relationship with UI
         * It was agreed that it is important to research the history, starting with the establishment of ANF and how the relationship with IFB was formed.
         * It was also decided that more information is needed regarding the specifics of the advertisement agreement with IFB compared to other sponsors. For example, when is use of the Hawkeye logo permitted? How is our brand co-opted? How can the university separate from a sponsor agreement?
         * Finally, it was suggested that, as a teaching institution, our duty extends beyond the details of the sponsorship agreement. It is our responsibility to engage IFB in discussion about our beliefs and values as they relate to climate change and sustainable farming. Meeting with IFB to discuss these differences is an important next step.
   3. SCC’s future concerns and priorities
      1. Continue to pursue widespread culture change on the topic of sustainability
         * Expand efforts within UIHC
         * Work toward inclusion of sustainability in college and university strategic plans
5. Next meetings:
   1. July TBD
   2. Last AY 2019-20 meeting likely mid-August
   3. AY 2020-21 TBD
6. Adjournment