Sustainability Charter Committee Minutes

Wednesday, October 28 @ 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM via Zoom

Present: Matthieu Biger, Joseph Haggerty, Erin Irish, Megan Lindmark, Emilie Manders, Laurie Ponto, Silvia Secchi
Absent: Shellie Fravel, Jenna Hammerich (*Excused*), Melissa Meisterheim, Sam Schauer
Ex Officio: Jill Irvin
Liaisons: Ben Fish, Stratis Giannakouros
Staff: Beth MacKenzie, Blake Rupe

1) Call to order
2) Announcements
   a) Membership: Amanda Thompson – Program Coordinator UIHC – to replace Jenna Hammerich
   b) Silvia Secchi – temporarily replacing Heather Sander
3) Updates and further discussions
   a) TIAA resolution
      i) This committee gave direction on TIAA issues. The anthropologists are working on draft to give to Faculty Senate at this point.
   b) Earth Day 2021
      i) Program going virtual
      ii) Silvia Secchi is still happy to work on virtual programming with the UI.
      iii) Erin would like to organize a committee early this year and put in a call for volunteers.
      iv) Last year, there were 50 proposal for 8 spots so we have a good place to start for speakers. We don't have to work on locations and food, so it is largely figuring out the technology.
      v) One concern is whether we need to increase the number of Zoom participants, especially if this is a national event (or at least the whole state).
      vi) Idea: Brian Campbell at Central College is planning to host a Sustainability in the Curriculum virtual training and is open to working with other schools. Could be an opportunity to offer via the teach-in or before/after the teach-in depending on timing.
      vii) Idea: Due to Derecho, could we partner with Trees Forever or some other organization and arrange a tree planting ceremony? We had plans for last year that fell through, but this year with the devastation to our local forests, this might be even more impactful.
      viii) There might be an opportunity to have UI Lecture Committee explore possibility of having their April 19th speaker, Elizabeth Ayana Johnson [ayanaelizabeth.com]. Stratis will reach out to that committee initially.
   c) SCC co-chairs meeting with DEI Charter committee today
      i) To explore collaborations regarding tribal land and other sustainability issues.
      ii) If there are other ideas where these two overlap, bring them to the Committee.
   d) 2030 goals review of survey to be sent to everyone on campus was shared
      i) Follow-up to listening posts held last academic year
      ii) Goal to gauge what we want to include in 2030 goals
      iii) Timeline – Committee would like to get the survey out by the end of this week or beginning of next week. There will be a couple of reminders in November.
      iv) Feedback
         (1) Climate Action
            (a) Do we want to define "Climate Action" since it can be an umbrella term for other goals?

(b) We can have people rank items under the heading of "climate action"
(c) Is this political action? This isn't "political" but rather about policy. Also, are we endorsing just actions within the UI or are we going as far as governmental policies?
(d) Recommendation to stay away from the word advocacy
(e) Climate change is an issue. Climate action is the solution.
(f) Possible rephrasing could be "Climate policy" or "Actions to reduce climate change" or "Climate action to reduce GHGs (greenhouse gasses)", or "Climate action (e.g. reduce greenhouse gasses)"
(g) When Office of Sustainability was taken out of facilities, the goal was to do things to the policy level. This survey really signals how different things are from the 2020 goals. It's a wonderful difference.
(h) Conclusion: keep "Climate Action" as is.

(2) Research
(a) Should we be doing more sustainability research on campus (rather than specifying UN Sustainable Development Goals?)
(b) Should we separate out the Global South?
(c) How do we design this survey for the layperson? Maybe take "the UN" out of the statement to make this accessible to everyone. Maybe just "sustainability" and/or "sustainability development".
(d) Do we want to research sustainability goals or solutions?
(e) Final wording - "Research connected to sustainability and sustainability development"

(3) Reduce inequalities is vague
(a) Reducing environment injustices? Does that sound like we have given up?
(b) Is this political advocacy? Maybe we stop using the word "political" and use "policy" instead.
(c) Regardless of political party, we need to work on policies to achieve results.

(4) Are we going to ignore items that don't get chosen through the survey?
(a) Stakeholder input is important, but it isn't the only input for choosing goals.
(b) There is research and other voices. We will acknowledge and listen to all input, but also weigh them with/against other evidence.
(c) Survey is not just to help choose the top 8 items, it is also an awareness raising tool.

(5) Discussion about whether to ask if survey-takers believe in Climate change. Not in this survey. This topic isn't up for debate.

v) Requesting President Share framework with broader university

e) Strategic Plans (e.g. collegiate, units, UI)

4) Other 2020-21 thoughts
a) Invite Rod Lehnertz
b) Annual visit from President has not been scheduled yet but aiming for spring.

5) Next meetings:
a) Friday, November 20, 9:00 am – 10:30am
b) Friday, December 11 9:00 am – 10:30am
c) Spring 2021 scheduling discussion – tabled until at least November when we have a better idea of schedules