

Sustainability Charter Committee Minutes

Friday, December 11 @ 9:00-10:30 am via Zoom

Present: Matthieu Biger, Michelle Fravel, Joseph Haggerty, Erin Irish, Megan Lindmark, Emily Manders, Laura Ponto, Sam Schauer, Silvia Secchi

Absent: Joseph Haggerty, Amanda Thompson

Liaisons: Ben Fish, Stratis Giannakouros

Ex Officio: Rich Hichwa, Glen Rogers, Tony Senio

Staff: Beth MacKenzie, Blake Rupe

Guests: Cornelia Lang, Rod Lehnertz

1. Call to Order
2. Announcements
3. New Business Items
 - a) Earth Day – space has been reserved for 2022
 - b) Could incorporate UI grad students for outdoor performances in 2021
 - i. Could consider location outside of Hancher as site of performance
4. Updates and further discussions
 - a) “TIAA” resolution: Staff Council Executive Committee Jan 6, 2021
 - i. Moving ahead without roadblocks,
 - b) IFB/ANF
 - i. Plan is for Stratis to meet with President Harreld to discuss next steps.
 - ii. Rod shared that President Harreld has stated that he is still planning to go forward with these discussions even though an ongoing Presidential search is underway. Timing of the conversation with the Farmer’s Bureau is still questionable due to COVID.
 - c) 2020 Vision Progress Report
 - i. There will be an updated final report, currently requesting updates from individuals to be sent by March 2021.
 - ii. Specific energy parameters and other endeavors heavily impacted by the Pandemic will not necessarily be reported including 2020 numbers given so many outliers; however, other aspects that were unaffected may still include data from 2020 (ex. Sustainability certificate numbers, etc.)
 - d) 2030 Sustainability Goals Framework
 - i. 2030 survey is now complete (over 5000 responses)
 - ii. Still working to develop report from the survey
5. Rod Lehnertz (Senior VP, Finance & Operations)
 - a) Goal related to being coal free by 2025 with Engie’s assistance remains despite COVID
 - i. Testing is planned for spring which, if goes well, will potentially allow for coal-free status by 2022
 - ii. The next goal will be to be off natural gas, there is exciting hope for hydrogen as the next replacement fuel
 - b) Engie Opportunities
 - i. Exciting ways for our students to be engaged with sustainability globally by studying with Engie

- c) Concerns regarding loss of momentum with COVID
 - i. Consideration may be given to creating an executive summary to allow for publication of progress
 - ii. Strategic communication can be consulted for assistance
 - iii. The recommendation was made to consider creating a year-long plan for timed announcements
 - d) Partners
 - i. Rod reached out to Athletics and UIHC leadership to request participation in sustainability efforts. The request was well received and, as a result, two individuals from UIHC and one from athletics were identified as participants.
6. Cornelia Lang (Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, CLAS)
- a) Systems thinking approach will be taken to integrate sustainability into the general education requirements. Courses may either be created or re-tooled to meet sustainability objectives.
 - b) The next step will be to have the proposal approved by Faculty Assembly
 - c) Following approval, the course proposal review process will begin. Courses will be approved by the General Education Curriculum Committee
 - i. Concerns were raised by the committee that there would be potential for the focus of sustainability to be less than required to meet learning outcomes. Cornelia explained the rigor with which courses are reviewed, noting that 1/3 of all proposals are rejected. This rigor allows for quality assurance to exist but noted that this will be a learning process.
 - ii. Cornelia was asked if there would be a process to assess if students were meeting sustainability learning goals after completion of these courses. She stated that assessment of learning outcomes in all areas of focus in general education is a focus of hers and, based on past experience, feels that evaluation of student coursework at the beginning compared to the end of the course can be useful.
 - d) Fall of 2022 would be the first potential implementation of the new sustainability GE requirement.
 - e) There will be open forums this spring to allow for feedback from faculty/students
7. Next meetings
- a) Spring '21: a doodle poll will be sent to determine spring meeting times.
8. Adjournment