

## Sustainability Charter Committee Minutes

Wednesday, January 20 @ 1:30-3:00 pm via Zoom

**Present:** Matthieu Biger, Michelle Fravel, Joseph Haggerty, Erin Irish, Melissa Meisterheim, Laura Ponto, Heather Sander, Libby Smith

**Absent:** Sam Schauer, Amanda Thompson

**Liaisons:** Ben Fish, Stratis Giannakouros

**Ex Officio:** Rich Hichwa, Glen Rogers, Scott Seagren, Tony Senio

**Staff:** Beth MacKenzie, Blake Rupe

**Guests:** Sara Maples

1. Call to Order
2. Announcements
  - a) Welcome to new student member, Elizabeth (Libbie) Smith
3. "TIAA" resolution: Staff Council Executive Committee Jan 26, 2021
  - a) In advance of the meeting between TIAA CREF and the Faculty Council, a draft presentation was shared. There is concern among the committee that the presentation does not adequately satisfy the faculty senate request regarding the need for TIAA to address transparency and sustainability issues related to rural land grabs. The committee feels it necessary that people knowledgeable in this area are present at the meeting on January 26 to ensure all concerns are adequately addressed by TIAA CREF.
4. Survey Results (Sara Maples)
  - a) Sara Maples, member of the 2030 Goals committee, presented results from the University of Iowa Sustainability Survey. She highlighted that the purpose of the survey was to ensure that the 2030 goals currently being developed by the committee are representative of the wider University of Iowa community.
  - b) There were 6,200 respondents which represents an ~11% response rate.
  - c) Notable conclusions from the survey include that the community prioritizes facilities as a target for sustainability goals and that there is widespread recognition of the connection between sustainability and diversity/equity.
  - d) It was noted that, as seen within comments, there is likely a lack of awareness of sustainability efforts currently in place, highlighting the need for broader communication on the topic.
  - e) It was suggested that a recurrent themed section in the *IowaNow* publication would be an effective way to communicate sustainability achievements. The committee will be working Strategic Communications as the 2020/2030 goals are disseminated and involvement with *IowaNow* could be discussed at that time.
5. 2020 reporting discussion
  - a) Updates have been requested from individuals in charge of each 2020 goal
  - b) Beth MacKenzie has developed a report with goals/achievements and has requested that individuals leading each goal be asked to provide a reflection and future vision for their goal, in addition the updates that have been requested.
6. Earth Day update: Erin Irish
  - a) In addition to reaching out to speakers who were arranged for last year to speak via Zoom this year, Erin would like to add a component focused on organisms this year. This idea was well received by the committee as it was noted that focusing on positive aspects of the earth, to balance discussions about facing earth-related challenges, was a great idea.

- b) Beth MacKenzie shared information about One Sustainable Iowa – a partnership between the three major Iowa Universities to promote sustainability activities and programs. Website: [onesustainableiowa.com](http://onesustainableiowa.com)
  - c) iNaturalist was suggested as a platform that may be considered useful for Earth Day plans.
7. Invitations to future meetings
- a) Collegiate Leadership: leaders from larger colleges (CLAS, business, engineering, etc) will be invited to attend spring meetings to encourage incorporation of sustainability in collegiate strategic plans and into day-to-day activities at the college level.
  - b) Legislators: it was suggested that legislative members could be invited to future meetings. State leaders involved in sustainability-related efforts, along with local Iowa City council members with similar involvement were suggested as good candidates.
  - c) ANF/Farmers Bureau: it is unclear what further action President Harreld plans to take related to the concerns discussed with him at a previous meeting about the confusion between messaging that comes from the Farmer's Bureau which is made to appear as though it is supported by ANF/University of Iowa. Matthieu and Erin plan to follow up with President Harreld on this matter.
8. Next meetings
- a) Feb 15, 2021 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
  - b) Mar 15, 2021 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
  - c) Apr 19, 2021 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
  - d) May 17, 2021 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
  - e) June-August: TBD
9. Adjournment