

Sustainability Charter Committee Minutes

Friday July 16, 2021 @ 3:00-4:30 pm via Zoom

Present: Michelle Fravel, Matthieu Biger, Erin Irish, Jenna Wischmeyer, Melissa Meisterheim, Heather Sander

Absent: Joseph Haggerty, Megan Lindmark, Laurie Ponto, Sam Schauer, Libby Smith

Liaisons: N/A

Ex Officio: Tony Senio, Glen Rogers

Staff: Blake Rupe

Guests: Mary Trachsel, Charles Stanier

1. Call to Order
2. Announcements – Open to all present
 - a) Charlie Stanier has been attending an informal monthly round table meeting regarding energy use on campus and the group is looking for tangible projects that benefit sustainability on campus [i.e. energy pellets, educational opportunities for students related to the P3, creation of a new course spring 2022 with engineering and college of business related to sustainable energy projects, creating a resource center website so that faculty/staff can access resources related to sustainability (ex. setting up tours with Engie)]. If you have ideas or interest in attending the round table meetings, Charlie can be contacted for more information.
 - b) Bio Blitz at the [Ashton Prairie](#) was a successful event, which allowed the campus to highlight the biodiversity that already exists within the prairie.
3. Impromptu new business for this agenda – Open to all present
 - a) Pesticide/herbicide use on campus: a report was created in the past and follow-up questions related to the report from students on campus were brought to the committee and then relayed to Dave Brown. Dave has responded that he plans to reach out to all involved to be able to provide a response that reflects all stakeholders. He would like to know how the committee plans to use the information provided. The complexity in managing grounds on a large campus like Iowa was discussed (athletics needs, aesthetics, student/booster preferences, etc).
 - b) New “green” spaces may allow additional opportunity to implement environmentally sustainable practices for landscaping.
 - c) The committee plans to respond that our role is to help guide the university toward sustainability so the information would be used to help determine if we as a committee can assist in obtaining more information/resources to help the campus move away from harmful pesticides.
4. Updates
 - a) Committee membership
 - i. One student will remain on the committee and three new students will join.
 - ii. Jenna Wischmeyer has stepped in this term – until 2022 – for a staff member no longer employed by UI.
 - b) TIAA Resolution
 - iii. Brought to committee by faculty in anthropology, faculty senate then staff council approved the resolution overwhelmingly. The resolution acknowledges the lack of transparency within TIAA related to unethical/illegal practices of some landholdings within their property investments. The next step for the committee will be to follow-up to ensure action is taken as a result of the resolution.
 - c) Efforts to invite:

- i. New UI President
 - a. Plan is for co-chairs to meet with President Wilson to discuss 2030 goals to allow her the opportunity to provide guidance.
 - b. Will invite her to attend a future meeting in the fall or spring.
 - ii. Government relations
 - a. Have not heard back from legislators regarding meeting attendance. plan to reach out again in the fall.
- 5. Discussions on:
 - a) ANF and other “Group Tickets” opportunities (e.g., “Union Day”)
 - i. Group ticket days recognize a specific group of people (ANF recognizes farmers, Union Day recognizes union workers, etc). This is seen as a time for messaging for the University.
 - ii. Erin contacted Hawkeye sports properties management and UI trademark office to discuss the relationship between ANF and IFB: IFB has established exclusive right to use the slogan. The concern exists among the committee that this exclusive partnership prevents representation of Iowa Farmers by other entities.
 - iii. This October will be the 10th ANF game.
 - iv. Erin and others met with UI strategic communications group to talk about positive sustainability messaging related to farming/agriculture during that game: ideas include 1) a focus on water quality 2) the P3 project that was recently approved which involves earth observation (likely for the purpose of land use change, climate, and weather observation). Idea #2 is likely better suited for 2022 once the project has begun: iti.uiowa.edu/news/2021/06/ui-scientists-expand-space-based-research-campus-through-new-p3-grant
 - b) The future/funding of [CGRER](#) and other Sustainability/Environment entities @ Iowa
 - iv. This center is sunsetting because it is a State center and since the state decided to cut funding. Replacement funding options have been thoroughly investigated but it will no longer be able to be supported/exist the way that is has.
 - v. There is a strong sense among the committee that the University of Iowa needs a Climate research center and not having one puts us at a disadvantage for many reasons, funding competitions as once example. Our peer institutions do have centers like these making it difficult for us to compete for this type of funding. The committee will lend support to a call for action from the people/departments who will be directly involved in spearheading such an effort.
 - c) 2021-22 endeavors
- 6. Next meeting: August 19 3-4:30pm
- 7. Adjournment