

Sustainability Charter Committee Minutes

Monday September 13, 2021 @ 1:30-3:00pm via Zoom

Present: Matthieu Biger, Joseph Haggerty, Erin Irish, Melissa Meisterheim, Isabella Mullins, Laurie Ponto

Absent: Amber Crow, Michelle Fravel, Sam Schauer, Emily Schmitz, Mary Trachsel, Jenna Wischmeyer

Liaisons: Ben Fish, Stratis Giannakouros

Ex Officio: Tony Senio, Glen Rogers

Staff: Beth MacKenzie, Blake Rupe

Guests/observers: Charles Stanier

1. Call to Order
 2. Introductions
 3. Announcements / 4. Impromptu new business – Open to all present
- Giannakouros and Senio have been contributing to planning meetings for the new wrestling Annex
 - [Ahead of Agenda Item 6. a) i.] Discussion of 2030 goals:
 - President Wilson asked Giannakouros for measurable goals for goals in the framework other than goal 1 (which already has measurable goals). Stratis will run the proposed measurable targets by the 2030 Sustainability Goals committee:
 1. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50%
 2. Embed sustainability into every college and auxiliary unit's strategic plan and report on progress annually
 3. One hundred percent of undergraduate students will complete a sustainability-focused course before graduating
 4. Become a Zero Waste campus
 - Giannakouros asked how engineering is doing on a goal of having every college of engineering student complete a sustainability-focused course
 - MacKenzie commented on how the zero-waste goal will go, given that UIHC has to incinerate single use items. UIHC would likely have an asterisk and a separate goal based on meeting or exceeding performance of peer institutions.
 - Discussion of how we can get to zero waste, and whether this is an appropriate goal. Construction and demolition waste is counted at ISU as recycled. So that helps the math. Giannakouros said that national regulations, national trends, and eliminating single use plastic will get us far to the rest of the way.
 - Laboratory waste – because there is no ability to recycle or no alternative – would also be exempt and would not count in the denominator.
 - All committee members spoke in favor of Zero Waste goal. And the need to include a large educational component for Zero Waste goal (Mullins et al.). Ponto spoke that education is coupled to zero waste goal as the complicated definition with exempt categories will seem disingenuous. Ponto also mentioned that education of pre-1st years is needed due to waste issues around move in.
 - ➔ Action items would include defining Zero Waste; its measures at Iowa; 3Y-5Y goals; all towards possible certification.
 - Biger brought up -- what resources do we (SCC, OSE, FM etc.) need to meet the Zero Waste goal. Grants? Personnel? As this seems like a big goal for a small team.
 - Discussion on President Wilson's leadership style with regards to sustainability, informed by the committee members who have met with her.
 - Discussion of whether we should have a water-focused goal (conservation). There is an energy-water use connection, but Fish and Giannakouros felt the amount of energy used to make water is small.
 - Fish also mentioned that is flows are too low, you can get chlorination biproducts. Having water goals is common at peer universities so it can look odd that we do not have a water conservation

goal. Whether water is from aquifer (Coralville, North Liberty) or river (City of Iowa City, Univ of Iowa) makes it really matter how important water conservation is.

- Discussion of upgraded equipment for nitrate reduction to clean nitrates out of the Iowa water.

5. Updates / 6. Review/Discuss:

- **Farmland holdings resolution** regarding TIAA-CREF, asking for more information on farmland holdings by TIAA funds. Many shared governance bodies passed the resolution. TIAA is coming Oct 27. They are meeting with sustainability charter committee from 9-10:15 on that day.
- **Discussion of potential guest speakers:** Deans Harriett Nembhard (Engr), Sara Sanders (CLAS), and Amy Kristof-Brown (Tippie) were suggested.
- **Discussion of ongoing business:**
 - Giannakouros update on the **Ashton Prairie** instrumented laboratory (establishment of prairie flowers, results of well drilling and geological cores, CAMBUS transport to/from). Discussion of how to create a living laboratory from the Iowa River like we have at the Ashton XC.
 - **Marketing relationship between ANF and athletics, PFI and IFB** (between Biger, Irish, and Barb Wilson). Relatedly, the Iowa Raptor center recently participated in the Iowa Indiana game with a trained falcon to promote wildlife education.
- Ben Fish reported that he approved a study for Engie to look at redoing the intake structure for the water plant -- and that it could kill two birds with one stone and make is both an engineering improvement and provide access for educational use of the river. [re: 2030 goals; Iowa River water monitoring living lab]

7. Next meeting: Tue 10/19 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

8. Adjournment