

Sustainability Charter Committee Minutes

January 20, 2022 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Zoom

Present: Matthieu Biger, Erin Irish, Michelle Fravel, Melissa Meisterheim, Laura Ponto, Isabelle Mullins, Mary Trachsel, Charles Stanier, Emily Schmitz, Sam Schauer

Absent: Amber Crow, Jenna Wischmeyer

Liaisons: Ben Fish, Stratis Giannakouros

Ex Officio: Tony Senio, Glen Rogers

Staff: Beth MacKenzie, Blake Rupe

Guest: Yelena Perkhounkova from Committee on Committees

1. Call to Order

2. Announcements – Open to all present

- Yelena Perkhounkova from the Committee on Committees announced that faculty charter committee selections will occur soon. The committee on committees will be discussing the importance of attendance/engagement and commitment among faculty on committees as an agenda item this year. Please contact elena-perkhounkova@uiowa.edu with any suggestions for the application process.
- Hawkeye decarbonization summit has been confirmed for April 22-23 (hybrid online and in person); featuring: [Saul Griffith](#)
- Iowa City now has an e-bus but it has been confirmed that it does not fit under the CRANDIC bridge; of note, the bus has a small diesel engine to allow it to function in the winter weather
- Peter Thorn & Michael Welch are hosting climate challenge for students
- Ideas lab: a collaboration between the University of Iowa and Iowa State to collect research ideas across institutions as a means to guide the development of three main workshops; faculty are encouraged to submit their research interests.

3. Impromptu new business for this agenda – Open to all present

- None

4. Liaison updates

- None

5. Committee Charter Review

- It was suggested that the sustainability charter committee create subcommittees that will focus on the 2030 goals to add accountability to achievement of these goals
- The charter committee should identify the content experts and the subcommittee members can support/assist in driving the accountability/reporting/action.
- Full committee meetings could be used to receive reports from subcommittees

6. Embedding SCC/Sustainability (Cont'd)

- Strategic Plan 2022-2027

- 2030 goals will be framed as the priorities of the President's Office:
 1. **Climate Goal:** Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent
 2. **Education Goal:** One hundred percent of undergraduate students will complete a sustainability-focused course before graduating
 3. **Waste Goal:** Become a Zero Waste campus by achieving [PLAN Atlas Bronze Zero Waste certification](#) [*Healthcare facilities will not be included in the zero waste goal, but will meet or exceed top performing healthcare facility diversion rates of at least 40%*]
 4. **Water Goal:** Improve water quality in the Iowa River by creating best practices for stormwater management and water conservation
 5. **Campus Goal:** Embed sustainability into every college and auxiliary unit's strategic plan and report on progress annually
- Major goal is to decentralize the action to individual units
- Townhalls will be held in Feb-April 2022 for people to comment on the strategic plan – this provides an opportunity for members of the sustainability committee to voice opinions on the inclusion of sustainability in the strategic plan. Engagement will be important given that the specific language used to describe sustainability within the plan will have significant impact on the future activity related to the sustainability goals on campus.
- Timeline
 - Mar. 14, 2022: Draft strategic plan provided to the Board of Regents
 - Mar-May 2022: Feedback on draft plan's goals, strategies, critical tasks, and metrics solicited from campus
 - May 13, 2022: Final strategic plan submitted to the Board of Regents
 - June 2, 2022: Board of Regents approves strategic plan
 - July 1, 2022: Strategic plan implementation begins
- Campus planning including:
 - 10yr UI Facilities Master Plan
 - Buildings (e.g., deconstruction v. demolition)
 - Maintaining older buildings is difficult due to cost, energy efficiency and air filtering for safety issues related to the pandemic for example
 - Could there be a group to research alternate way to demo compared to the standard process of taking things to the landfill?
 - This would fit well under a waste goal subcommittee's role
 - New land-use (e.g., beyond bluegrass)
 - A facilities landscape plan exists:
 - facilities.uiowa.edu/landscape-services (Current view)
 - facilities.uiowa.edu/sites/www.facilities.uiowa.edu/files/ls_mgmtplan.pdf (Forward-looking plan)
 - A holistic approach is desired when it comes to buildings and land use. For example, consider demolition costs even including harm to surround areas (example: Oak trees at West Lawn). Additionally, it

would be desirable to tie the process of making decisions related to land use to the education goals, like at Ashton cross county space.

- Although there is sustainability representation during master plan meetings (Stratis Giannakouros and Ben Fish), inviting those involved in master plan decision making would be a good idea for future meetings to provide an opportunity for these individuals to hear ideas from the committee (Joe Bilotta and Adele Vanarsdale recommended specifically)
- Consideration may be given to adding an ex officio position for campus planning for this Committee
- Design and construction involvement is also recommended (Mike Kearns specifically)

7. Next meetings:

- a. Thu, Feb 17 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM (Guest: Prof. Peter Thorne)
- b. Mon, Mar 7 10:30 AM – noon
- c. Thu, Apr 14 10:30 AM – noon (Guests: Jenna Wischmeyer – SCC member and FM Environmental Compliance Director; Dean of College of Engineering)
- d. Mon, May 16 10:30 AM – noon
- e. Summer meetings TBD

8. Adjournment