

Sustainability Charter Committee Minutes

June 15, 2022 @ 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Zoom

Attendees: Matthieu Biger, Erin Irish, Michelle Fravel, Melissa Meisterheim, Laura Ponto (Emeritus)

Absent: Amber Crow, Isabella Mullins, Sam Schauer, Emily Schmitz, Mary Trachsel, Jenna Wischmeyer

Ex Officio: Glen Rogers, Tony Senio

Staff: Beth MacKenzie

Guest: Blake Rupe

1. Call to Order

2. Announcements – Open to all present

- Students are working at the [Ashton Prairie](#) this summer; the prairie was recently mowed for weed spreading prevention
- Blake and Beth will be working with Quality Care to discuss the contract to request avoidance of certain chemicals but not specifically stating what can be used; there may be instances where certain pests call for certain chemicals so stating policies in an open way is needed; requesting reporting a list of what is used, when, and how much; utilization of purchasing to put pressure on getting these demands met
- [2030 goals have been posted on the Sustainability website](#)
- Blake, Stratis, Beth working with the “Well-Being & Mental Health Campus Collaborative” subcommittee related to guiding principles for buildings
- Bio Blitz is planned for a couple of weeks
- Blake’s former [position in the Office of Sustainability is being re-hired](#)

3. [2030 Campus Sustainability Goals](#) - Working Group Formation

- Volunteer survey results are being reviewed, there are 6-10 volunteers per group but group leaders are still needed
- Recommend consideration be given to recruiting for co-chairs or team chairs to possibly make the task more acceptable for volunteers
- It has been discussed that the Committee on Committees is examining the role of charter committees and a formal charge to take ownership of these working groups followed by a formal call from the University for participation may be a better way to recruit participants
- May consider a start of the year reminder from the university about university wide sustainability activities that people can contribute to which would include committee membership
- Process for reaching out to volunteers
 - Provide overall charge, timeline, overview of other subcommittee charges, resources, etc.
 - Recommend crafting a toolkit and “what to expect” document
 - Beth will share an example document from the Wellness Committee that she received as part of her work on a subcommittee

4. Future Meeting Ideas

- Consider soliciting sustainability-focused presentations from the University community
- The call-out for presentations will need to be specifically tailored to draw the types of participants we are interested in inviting to future meetings
- May consider reaching out to faculty overseeing sustainability focused student projects
- Future guest suggestion:
 - DNR speaker to address recent concerns with bacteria in our lakes that was reported recently;

- Iowa Environmental Council (See: [Weekly Water Watch example](#));
- Representative from Johnson County Board of Supervisors

5. Reviewing Committee Membership Policies

- Student terms are one year – is that optimal?
- Are there ways to improve attendance
 - Reduce time of the meeting from 90 minutes to 60 minutes
 - Agreed on Fall 2022 trial at reduced time
 - Consider meet less frequently than monthly
- Ex Officio Representation
 - If certain individuals have not been able to attend/are known to be retiring, may reach out to ask if there would be others in the department who may be more able to attend

6. Next meetings: July 20 @ 9:30-11:00 AM; August meeting pending

7. Adjournment