

Sustainability Charter Committee Minutes

July 20, 2022 @ 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Zoom

Attendees: Matthieu Biger, Erin Irish, Laurie Ponto, Melissa Meisterheim, Jenna Wischmeyer

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

Liaison: Stratis Giannakouros

Ex Officio: Glen Rogers

Staff: Beth Mackenzie

Guest: Blake Rupe, Steve Troester (2022-25 SCC member), Jeralyn Westercamp (2022-25 SCC member)

1. Call to Order

2. Announcements – Open to all present

- Bio Blitz at Ashton Cross Country
 - Took place July 9 and was successful and well attended
 - Details at inaturalist.org/projects/2nd-annual-bioblitz-at-the-ashton-prairie-living-laboratory-2022
- American Academy of College of Pharmacy (AACP) will vote at 2022 Annual meeting July 2022 on a policy statement to expand education on climate change in pharmacy curricula nationwide
 - *AACP supports the integration of diverse curricular components related to social forces and environmental factors and the impact on the environment, health, and health equity within Doctor of Pharmacy and graduate education programs to support the development of knowledge necessary to understand the role pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists, and other health care professionals must play in reducing the negative impact of global climate change.*

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

- None

4. Liaison updates

- None

5. 2030 Goals [TABLED]

- Working Groups – further discussion
- Update on UI Strategic Plan

6. Guest: Joe Bolkcom; CGRER & Iowa Flood Center Outreach Community Education Dir. and State Senator

- Iowa Climate Statement: iowaenvironmentalfocus.org/iowa-climate-statement
- Iowa will get hotter and increased precipitation so our actions need to be geared toward making policy that will help us manage this
- Some good in Iowa, for example: wind turbines are paid for by federal tax dollars
- Ulowa could be more aggressive in bringing students who can become leaders in climate change
- Question – 2010 Vote for Constitutionally Protected Fund to Invest Environmental Sustainability
 - Vote was approved, taxes were raised
 - Mechanism to fund – the next time a sales tax increase is increased, the first 3/8 of each penny would go to this fund (a proposal is out to increase sales tax currently)
 - The proposal out is to sunset the local tax increases and make an increase in state sales tax and it will be a challenge to do so
 - The legislature has not approved a sales tax increase since this time
 - iaenvironment.org/blog/iowa-environmental-voice/why-i-want-iowa-to-fund-the-trust
 - iowapbs.org/shows/iowapress/episode/6250/senators-dan-dawson-and-pam-jochum
- Question – water in Iowa

- Republicans have little interest in having control on agriculture water pollution so there are no plans to address the problems with our water
- We have a policy that voluntarily asks farmers to do better and it has failed
- State budget – 12 million dollars for department of natural resources
 - Cut from 18 million to 12 million for the last 13 years this has not been increased
 - thegazette.com/state-government/park-rangers-speak-out-about-losing-housing-in-iowa-state-parks
- Question – what should this committee focus on?
 - New hospital in UIHC and its impact on University’s carbon footprint
 - How can we meet the needs of incoming students on the topic of sustainability?
 - Reduction of pesticides
 - Currently have language drafted within purchasing that will reduce purchasing of dangerous pesticides
 - Question: has the University considered advertising more after the pesticides are applied? Better signage to minimize dermal exposure
 - Integrated pest management plan is also underway which will address this topic
 - Additionally, we are requesting report of applications from third party vendors (what was applied, how much, etc)
- Question – Solar Policy
 - Solar tax credit federally; we also have a solar tax credit in Iowa
 - Money to homeowners and businesses to put solar on (example, half paid for by the state)
 - Iowa’s credit has phased out because it was a % of the federal tax and Republicans reduced the tax for this federally
 - The state has at least allowed local governments to continue to determine if solar is used
 - Federal support is still good
- Question – is there a future for CGRER
 - Since 2017 when Republican took control in Iowa, funding has been eliminated for multiple suitability-focused research centers
 - These were created to focus on sustainable energy, water quality, sustainable agriculture, etc.
 - [CGRER](#) continues to explore funding options
 - Relatedly: leopold.iastate.edu/
- Question – new farm bill
 - Possibly will include incentives for conservation (Tom Vilsack will be involved in role as Secretary of Agriculture)
 - Likely depends on who has control of the House at that time

7. Brainstorming future agenda items, endeavors, and guests **[TABLED]**

8. 2022-23 SCC membership preview

- Will follow-up with committee on committees to ask if applications are still open and if so, will begin recruitment to fill spots. Will also ask committee on committees if applications are being denied and, if so, on what basis?
- Consider revisiting documents that define ex officio positions to perhaps expand/update

9. Next meetings:

- Wed August 17 9:30-11am (decision made to cancel August meeting)
- Fall 2022 meetings TBD