



CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

December 7, 2020

3:00 p.m., [Virtual Meeting](#)

Committee Members Present: Alonzo, Carter, Chastain, Crosswhite, Daley, Dishman, Goodsell, Guzzi, Kuintzle, Saseen, Sistrunk, Vidal, Wentz.

Committee Members Absent: Blackwell, Decker, Matiasek, Millard, Rider, Ross, Simmons.

Others Present: Fletes, Koontz.

Agenda Items

1. Agenda approved.
2. Minutes from 11/9/2020 were approved.
3. Chastain provided an update on the Climate Action and Resilience Plan. 30 people have provided input and feedback, including some committee members. Any further comments should be provided by December 18th, then the plan will be presented to the Vice President for Business and Finance, the President and Executive Committee of Academic Senate. The plan details a commitment to carbon neutrality and embracing resilience. We will continue to report on carbon neutrality milestones within research and community engagement. Second Nature requires a very structured and specific framework for reporting and meeting goals, including measurements and costs; information about water use; how sources of greenhouse gas are measured; carbon offsets; neutrality recommendations covering scope 1, 2 and 3; and funding and finances, including how we will pay for some institutional changes. Chastain can provide feedback if anyone has questions or concerns.
4. Subcommittee Updates
 - **Energy Subcommittee (Guzzi):** This subcommittee is working on quantifying annual energy costs. We spend approximately \$6M per year on energy (water, power and gas). Since the COVID campus shutdown, we have saved around \$900,000. There is still a lot of work we need to do. We should hear in the next few weeks if we have secured funding for the bike path, library lighting and a wood chipper to keep green waste on site. Also in the works are a project for faculty buyout for carbon soil sampling and faculty workshops for climate change and resilience in curriculum. A question was raised by Kuintzle regarding heating and cooling and whether buildings are still being heated and cooled while campus is closed. Guzzi confirmed that yes, they are, due to airflow OSHA requirements. Adjustments have been made to staffing schedules within FMS to avoid peak hour energy usage. Approximately \$200,000 has been saved by moving shifts for workers so that they don't coincide with the peak period. Kuintzle also asked about inefficient/inconsistent heating and cooling in rooms around campus; some being hot and some being cold. An idea was raised that perhaps the committee could propose more

specific guidelines for the stated window of temperatures across campus. Currently 68-78 degrees is the standard.

Ross brought up the topic of solar panels, noting that there would be an up-front cost and asking what impact that would make on our energy savings across campus. Guzzi confirmed that the first phase with solar installation would not make the biggest impact; by a rough estimate the payback on solar is 7 years. Chastain noted that we are contracting to purchase electricity using a power purchase agreement paying slightly less than what we would to a utility company and utilizing energy from renewable sources.

- **Student Engagement Subcommittee** (Ross): November 15th we held National America Recycles Day to raise awareness around recycling. Students set up a check-in table near the wildcat statue and received donations, provided swag and giveaways to volunteers including sustainable products such as Chico Bags and Klean Kanteen. This was a successful event which we hope will be annual.
- **Curriculum Subcommittee** (Sistrunk): This subcommittee has worked on implementing climate change and climate resilience into student learning outcomes for campus and has tightened up goals that past Greenleaf courses had. There may be an opportunity to bring ideas to the Curriculum Advisory Board (CAB) and to require that Greenleaf courses become a campus-wide requirement. Sistrunk asked for a motion supporting the curriculum subcommittee to revisit the Executive Memorandum to reflect accurate committee membership and to create oversight for Greenleaf course requirements and climate change/climate resilience SLOs. The motion was approved.
- **Water Subcommittee** (Alonzo): New members have joined this subcommittee including David Ken with Cal Water and Brian Wunsch, our campus irrigation specialist. Alonzo is working with the campus design team to update the campus map with drinking fountains and hydration stations. For now it is shown in the campus map under the option for services under inclusive resources. We may work on adding the compost garden, recycling bins, and bioswales to the map. The grounds crew team is working on tracking down leaks identified during our last Cal Water bill. Anomalies have been identified including a slow leak on a dripline that was wasting 800-1000 gallons per day. The team was able to backtrack it using data tied in to work orders. The group feels optimistic to see reductions in the next water bill. Additionally, more controllers have been brought online and now 60% of campus is under central control. We have a better handle on usage patterns and consumption and will be able to report out on that more frequently. Finally, a student SFAC project was approved that will tie into water usage. Amanda Moylan is working on collecting HVAC condensate at the Gateway Science Museum to irrigate landscaping there. She'll be starting work with FMS to get that set up.
- **Zero Waste Subcommittee** (Saseen): The subcommittee met recently to discuss 4 current goals: centralizing waste tracking and data management; upgrading exterior bins around campus (this is in the works); establishing a zero-waste hub on campus; and creating a standardization model.
- **Natural Environment Subcommittee** (Goodsell): A 70-acre prescribed burn will be occurring later this week. The Environmental Resiliency Collaborative is making progress and met with the President last week and will be contacting people on this committee and throughout campus to put together a hub that showcases all current and recent past environmental resiliency projects especially those that are community-facing. The subcommittee will also meet with the town of Paradise this week to discuss potential projects and collaboration with the parks district. Natural Environment is partnering with the Water subcommittee for an inventory plan for species of

ecological benefit and cultural significance throughout Chico Creek and to help create management plan for Riparian zone. There are plans in spring for crews to remove the invasive wisteria in the area behind Sylvester's Cafe near Butte Hall. Wisteria is growing into the trees. This will be a pilot partnership project that may include volunteer opportunities.

- **Alternative Transportation Subcommittee** (Chastain): If we secure funding for the bike path, we hope to create signs for all bike racks with simple bulleted information including how to register bikes (QR code included), how to properly lock bikes, and how to report theft and vandalism to UPD or Chico PD. There are many bike thefts but they often go unreported; ideally the signs would help identify problem areas so we can adjust officer patrol and lighting. The subcommittee is still working on a map of student/faculty/staff home locations overlaid with alternative transportation resources to identify where people have access.
 - **Agriculture Subcommittee** (Daley): The team is working to wrap up the carbon farm plan and create a roadmap of how to improve carbon storage at the farm. The project is showing promising data on the dairy pastures alone (50 acres), which save 60 tons of carbon every year. If we scale that out to the rest of farm and the reserves and campus, the storage potential is big.
5. Daley provided an update on the This Way to Sustainability Conference. Proposals will be accepted through the end of December 2020. We are lacking proposals in the areas of health, wellness, diet and nutrition; entrepreneurship and supply chain management; and arts and expression.
 6. Announcements. The annual report has been completed and will be sent to the group after the meeting (Koontz). Spring semester meetings will be scheduled once student schedules are confirmed. Meetings will be held February through May.
 7. The meeting was adjourned.