

Campus Sustainability Council

November 6, 2017

3:00-4:30

1RC028

Meeting called by: Alana Lajoie-O'Malley

Facilitator: Alana Lajoie-O'Malley

Note taker: Maureen Hanlon

Attendees: Alana Lajoie-O'Malley, Maureen Hanlon, Joseph Wasylcia-Leis, Connor Penton, Avery Letkeman, Daniel Leonard, Maree Rodriguez, Jodene Baker, Andrew Park, Lenn Cann, Mike Thul, Kyle Macdonald, Brian Daly, Eva Wasney, Inga Johnson Mychasiw, Ian Vickers, Morgan Brightnose, Michael Emslie

Minutes

Agenda item: Terms of Reference

Discussion: Alana gave an overview of the strategy-building process, including the renewed focus on social sustainability, emphasis on creating connections with academic and student life, and continuing work forward on facilities improvement. The group reviewed terms of reference for the Campus Sustainability Council and discussed the roles and responsibilities of the Council and of the Facilities and Academic Working Groups.

Agenda item: Presentation on 2017 Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Conference

Discussion: Joe shared relevant takeaways from the AASHE Conference he attended in October. He brought four points for the UW to consider: the development of a sustainability course requirement, a bike rental program, use of greenhouse space for food production, and a focus on community/university relationships.

Agenda item: Annual Report Overview

Discussion: Alana shared salient points from the annual report and asked for any feedback from council members. Mike noticed that the waste information seems inconsistent. Joe said we should look for more engaging ways to share the findings of the annual report with the campus community.

Action items

- ✓ Council members will e-mail the CSO with any last concerns about the annual report.
 - ✓ Maureen will check on waste data.
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Agenda item: Update from Academic Working Group

Discussion: Andy and Joe provided an overview of the last AWG meeting. The AWG is seeking a clear mission, built around promoting sustainability courses and creating a community of practice. Dan gave an update on the work of the Committee for Teaching Excellence, which may prioritize teaching grants that align with other University directives. Alana will be teaching the Campus Sustainability Course in the winter and is soliciting projects from Council members for her students to pursue with the class. Kyle explained that there are PACE students involved in his biomass project and asked about guidelines or guidance on best practices related to getting students involved in these types of projects.

Action items

- ✓ Council members can send Alana projects for her Campus Sustainability Course students to pursue.
- ✓ Dan will present about strategies for incorporating students into real-world projects at the next Council meeting.
- ✓ Kyle, the CSO and Dan to connect about strategies for onboarding PACE students into Biomass project.

Agenda item: Update from the Facilities Working Group

Discussion: Kyle gave an overview of the last FWG meeting. There are currently hybrid heating challenges due to the low cost of natural gas and the rising cost of hydro. Meeting the 50% reduction target is going to be challenging; the UW is working with Hydro to purchase surplus energy at a discount. As far as reaching the 5% target for renewables, the biomass project is underway and a special projects group has been assembled to look at the feasibility of solar on campus. Joe and Kyle will both be Green Associates for LEED O&M soon. Some questions followed: Brian offered to help provide trees for RCFE. Andy asked for further information on the biomass project, which will be in the old incinerator room in Ashdown Hall. Carbon taxation was also discussed, which Kyle predicts will help make Hydro the more affordable option again. Maree mentioned that the temperature control in the Rice Building seems a little off; Kyle answered that while the UW doesn't have control over the Rice building, our own steam system suffers from similar modulation challenges. Alana described a potential art project envisioned by Wins Bridgman to promote the new biomass project and suggested the project as a potential opportunity for a donor.

Action items

- ✓ Maureen will schedule another FWG Meeting for the end of the month.

Agenda item: Other Business/Council Member Departmental Updates

Discussion: Avery asked Connor to review Scope 3 GHG Emissions. Connor described his work categorizing these and making the data relevant and reportable for the university. The 5 main categories are business travel, waste, investment, commuting, and purchasing. Dan reported that 373 Langside may soon be home to a cultural garden or soil remediation project. Andy expressed concern that we aren't reporting fieldwork emissions. Alana replied that it is unlikely that these make up a large proportion of our overall emissions compared to natural gas use; at the moment we only report on university-insured vehicles. Brian shared that the UW Foundation is now a member of the Intentional Endowments Network. Eva offered help with outreach on sustainability and related issues from the communications team; Council members can contact her directly for more information. Maureen and Joe gave an update on the Green Office Program. The CSO is reaching out to departments across campus to give Green Office presentations and appoint representatives. Kyle said it would be helpful if the CSO could stress turning off computers overnight, which he thinks might have a significant impact on energy use. Ian discussed the process of Diversity's LEAF Audit. Although they received a high percentage of points possible, they were unable to attain the top level because rather than investing in new equipment, they've invested in maintaining the equipment they have. This illustrates the kind of pitfalls common in point-based certification programs. Joe also asked Ian to share their work with an Asper MBA student who determined that for every dollar Diversity spends, there is a \$1.68 social return. Joe finished by giving an update on the new student portal and the up and coming waste audit social enterprise.

Action items

- ✓ Brian will give a presentation on the UW Foundation's new investment policy at the next council meeting.
- ✓ The CSO will follow up with Kyle about discussing options for getting computers turned off at night with Kim Benoit.
- ✓ The CSO will send Brian the waste audit social enterprise informational material for help with outreach once it's prepared.