**MINUTES**

**President’s Council on Sustainability**

Meeting of November 7, 2019

Present: Mary Andrews, Ankitha Anumolu, Richard Blair, Eric Bonds, Kevin Caffrey, Brenna Creamer, Alan Griffith, Pamela Grothe, Elisabeth Heras, Curtis Kasiski, Jeremy Larochelle, Mackenzie Marbain, Brian Ogle, Jerry Slezak, Hunter Stephens, Melanie Szulczewski, Chuck Whipkey

Meeting began at 3:36PM.

* **Introductions**

The PCS welcomed the newest member (staff) Jerry Slezak to the council. Jerry is the Director of Digital Learning Support and should be able to assist with some of the issues under the Efficiency Subcommittee.

* **President’s Charge/Subcommittee Updates**
  + Renewable Energy Subcommittee

Liz provided an update that this subcommittee has divided up their work among themselves to research other schools, find out how much energy we are currently using (with Jay Sullivan’s assistance), and looking at grants for renewable energy and to see how that could be tied into courses and research

* + Efficiency Subcommittee

Melanie shared that their goals are to save energy and discover how to be more efficient using energy, water, etc. Idea is to come up with some different strategies to accomplish this.

* + Sustainability and Energy Connections Subcommittee

Kevin shared that they have narrowed their focus down to three goals:

1. Reducing Food Waste on Campus
2. Composting at the UC
3. Overarching Education/Teachable Moments to campus community about reduce/reuse initiatives
   * Transportation Subcommittee

Alan shared that the subcommittee has developed four goals:

1. Looking at the current carbon footprint from transportation resources
2. Identifying how to reduce this
3. Identifying peer organization initiatives
4. Creating outreaching initiatives

Additional discussion took place on a biking plan on campus and what has been done in the past. Richard talked about potentially looking at electric “golf-cart like” vehicles; perhaps some funding could be obtained for this. Richard also talked about the pros and cons of using electric commercial equipment such as leaf blowers, mowers, etc. on campus. Melanie urged this type of information to go into the plan that we put forward to Dr. Paino—what we are currently doing and where we want to go as an institution. She stressed that it is important for our plan to have:

1. Goals
2. Strategies
3. “An Ask” – what resources and staff do we need to accomplish these goals

Melanie also pointed out reviewing [NC State’s Sustainability Strategic Plan](https://sustainability.ncsu.edu/sustainability-strategic-plan/) as a reference.

Jerry brought up pointing out the connection between solar panel use and powering golf carts.

* **Next Steps**
  + Every subcommittee should send a synopsis of their work/plan to the PCS Chairs by Thursday November 14th.
  + The Chairs will review each one and put together one document to share with the entire council by the week of November 18th for feedback.
  + Chairs will meet with Dr. Paino on Thursday 11/21 to provide what progress/direction we’ve taken so far
* **Other Business**

Pam & Melanie shared that the Earth & Environmental Science faculty all signed for their support of Fossil Free Fredericksburg’s 100% Renewable Energy by 2050 initiative.

Eric & Brenna provided an update to the composting located in the Pollinator Garden behind Anderson. Discussion about further training/education so that in addition to coffee grounds and just a few individuals composting materials, the wider campus community would be able to do so provided they had some type of training on what can and cannot be composted. Recommendation made that signage needs to be posted for this composting area.

Richard mentioned recently Paul Messplay, VP for Admin/Finance, requesting for him to provide main sustainability actions they are currently doing.

Brian mentioned that at the next Staff Advisory Council meeting on Thursday November 21st he is going to advocate for them to official support the Fossil Free Fredericksburg renewable energy initiative.

Jeremy Larochelle reminded the council of the report Eric put together a year and half ago as a reference as subcommittees work on their plans.

Discussion took place on the status of the solar panel project on campus with sPower. Melanie & Liz are going to reach out to Jeremy Vaughn for more information on this.

* **Upcoming Important Dates**
  + 24 Hours of Reality: Truth in Action – Thursday November 21st – Digital Auditorium – 6:30-8:30 – Local Climate Reality Leader to present on the current climate crisis; panel discussion as well
  + [Butts are Litter Too Downtown Clean-Up](https://www.facebook.com/pg/umwsustainability/events) – Saturday November 16th

Next Meeting – TBD