

**Academic Senate Sustainability Committee  
Monthly Meeting Notes from November 7, 2016**

**Present:** Jeremy Kagan, Josh Goldstein, Daniel Mazmanian, Darren Ruddell, Kelly Sanders, Andre Ouellette, Lessa Kay Grunenfelder,

**Phone conference:** Paul Adler, Antonio Bento, Howard Greenwald, John Silvester

**Guests:** Mark Ewalt, Halli Bovia

Meeting Agenda for November 7, 2016 (Abbreviated)

*Reports (8:35-8:50)*

*Sustainability Survey (8:50-9:00)*

*Meet with Mark Ewalt and Halli Bovia (9:00-9:30)*

*Discussion (9:30-9:50)*

*Announcements (9:50-9:55)*

Darren reviewed materials that had been distributed prior to the meeting.

a. **The list of local-regional-state sustainability initiatives** - has been updated and posted.  
Dan: The listing is a partial one, because many additional initiatives exist.

b. **The Provost Undergraduate Student Survey**

Question: When will it be administered? Sometime this fall. Scope of the survey is broad - not focused on sustainability issues. The survey questions are being drafted currently. Then, the survey will be administered to a) entering students, b) outgoing students, and c) a 3rd cohort of uncertain composition. They are willing to work with our committee to include a survey question on sustainability.

Antonio: How is the survey to be administered?

Kelly will share survey data.

Kelly: Noted that a meeting is to take place on November 9, 2016 to plan for the survey. Other campus groups have interests in sustainability. We will be trying to coordinate with the larger sustainability community.

Darren asked Howard to draft potential survey questions.

Follow-up from Howard via email of 11/9/16:

" Hi Everyone,

He(re) are the questions we should ask about the student survey:

How were students sampled?

How were students sampled approached (face-to-face? email?)

How many responses were received?

What was the response rate?

What techniques were used to assess response bias, what if any response bias was

found, and how was bias addressed in the data analysis?  
What analysis was done?"

### c) **Steering Committee for 21st Century Challenges**

Andre mentioned having spoken to Paula Cannon to ask whether she might learn the Provost's views on how the varied sustainability interest groups will intersect and collaborate. Awaiting response.

Paul volunteered that Jim Ellis is willing to help. Form or extent of help is unclear.

Dan mentioned having contacted Jack Knott, Dean of Price.

Regarding Dornsife, Antonio recalled that during Dean Amber Miller's recruitment interviews she had discussed possibilities of reconfiguring/broadening the scope of the Wrigley Institute to include sustainability topics. In her previous position at Columbia, Dean Miller had interacted with an institute of similar structure, so she has some parallel experience in this area. However, the plans for Wrigley remain "Still a little vague" in Antonio's view. Wrigley family has a longstanding interest in sustainability issues as evident from the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability at Arizona State.

Paul: Suggested that Antonio arrange to speak with Dean Miller, as a means of perhaps maintaining momentum. Antonio responded that he senses it is better to allow the process to proceed at the current pace as Dean Miller sets priorities or her agenda.

### d) **Sustainability diagram**

Darren requests information in identifying a graphic designer who could create a flow diagram that could illustrate the interrelationships between sustainability groups on the USC campus.

### **Meet with Mark Ewalt and Halli Bovia**

Darren Welcomed Mark Ewalt, Executive Director of Administrative Operations, and Halli Bovia, Sustainability Program Manager, commenting that one goal is to develop better communication between the Senate Sustainability Committee and the Sustainability Steering Committee. Mark has been at USC for 25+ years and in his current position since August 2016, and Halli has been in her position for 5 years.

1. Halli reported that the Program's activities and priorities for this academic year:
  - a. Sustainability 2020, as was developed 2014-2015.
  - b. Develop a new communication strategy and roll out a new web site in Spr 2017.
  - c. Bridge more with sustainability community.

Re: Student engagement - Goals

- a. Orientation via "ESA"
- b. Better document transitions from academic year to year. Reliance on student staff in Halli's office translates to lack of programmatic memory as students leave and new staff come on board.
- c. Start an internship program - interface with Wrigley.

d. Continue the athletics sustainability program, which is a program unique to USC.

## 2. Sustainability Steering Committee.

Composed of faculty, staff, and students.

Consists of 7 subcommittees as outlined in the Sustainability 2020 document. Issue calls for proposals. Seek concepts that are well worked out.

Jeremy: Antonio's Urban Lab proposal presented at the October committee meeting is a prime example of a supported proposal.

Antonio: How will the web page be developed? He advocated for some association with a research/institute entity.

Halli: Wants to delete old content from existing site. Wants to catalog efforts on campus, e.g., engagement and operations. Emphasis will focus on operations. Will use "USC template" (for example, see DPS web site or pLAN). The department is tasked with listing everything that USC is doing regarding sustainability.

Antonio: Glad to hear of the separation

Halli: Happy to have our Senate committee develop content as well.

The site will catalog all centers associated with sustainability, noting sustainable aspects of operations, will post annual year-end reports, will post summaries of case studies - problems will not be posted in detail but contact information to be provided.

Limited by resources - wants to develop a "dashboard" to record progress in achieving goals. However, first there is a need to set goals, targets, and accomplishments.

Dan: Re: Upkeep of the website - will it be continually updated?

Halli: All elements posted will be sustained/maintained by Halli and student staffers.

Antonio: Supports a bigger vision for partnering with Los Angeles in research. For example, could USC be the city's experimental station?

Mark: Perhaps there is a way to include the city as a consult. Volunteered that USC is not interested in benchmarking or comparisons with other universities, e.g., ASU.

Halli: How does USC fit into the city's sustainability goals? There are constraints on the scope of programs.

Mark: USC would have an interest in USC having a multidisciplinary interface with the city of LA; we have strong interests in the Pacific Rim and in establishing a living laboratory that performs applied research that can be taken to the marketplace. New interdisciplinary programs could develop double or multiple cross-disciplinary majors, as would new entrepreneurial programs.

Dan: The city has ambitious goals. Perhaps there are ways for USC to pair with LA and help the city achieve its goals. We need to say what USC is doing, and he finds it difficult to see how we can pair with LA without making progress on campus.

Mark: He favors approaching questions on an *ad hoc* basis. Prefers to grow parts individually rather than first developing a "big plan."

Paul: What can the Senate do to enable Mark to move ahead?

Mark: Discussed the concept of "force multipliers" to achieve more within the existing framework. For the SSC, faculty can agree on the main goals that we believe need to be accomplished. Develop a good dialogue, especially in advocating with the Provost. "We need to get away from the 'bottom line.'"

Jeremy: How do we justify solar, when it isn't happening?

Mark explained that the DWP disincentives for such development by USC, including tax credits that USC cannot take advantage of opportunities to develop solar. Dan: Commented that solar is not cost effective.

(I think Jeremy - not sure who): University Village exemplifies large projects in which many groups are left out of the planning process. Need to tell USC that (the Village) is an example of how matters were not handled right. "OK, mistakes were made, now here is (something) that we could do right."

Dan: We are not saying what we are doing. We need to set goals. The Provost has set Security and Sustainability as a goal.

Mark: The USC culture is a federated environment, a fractured environment.

Mark: There is an opportunity with the Provost. The Senate could influence the Provost to see the vision.

[A discussion of demand side management ensued.]

Josh: Is there a structure to get in front of these issues? How can we provide input?

Mark: How can we articulate a broader vision for USC? The Senate is in a unique position for doing so.

Darren: Mark directs operational execution; Halli is the subject matter expert.

Paul: Need to mobilize campus leaders to articulate the vision. Get galvanized.

Mark: Let us be part of the process, particularly in the consideration of feasibility. Let's keep the dialogue going.

Paul: It needs to be the Senate that articulates a long-term vision for sustainability. Dean task forces lose steam - report to the same people that Mark does.

John: In past positions, he has encountered similar problems in new constructions - that USC does not consult.

[Discussion of the need for USC to establish longer term views. Planning for 2020 may not be an adequate long-term strategy.]

Kelley: Advocate for thinking ahead to 2050, etc. Although a distant target, "here is something you can do now."

The December meeting will focus on:

1 – **Advance a plan to promote a long term vision for sustainability at USC** Ruddell, Adler, and Mazmanian will work to prepare a plan to discuss at the December meeting.

2 – **Kelly will share results of the informal sustainability survey she organized on the UPC campus in 2015.** A copy of the survey will be circulated ahead of the December meeting.

**Action Items:**

1. Prepare list of questions for us (Lessa) to ask so we can better understand if the Provost Undergraduate Student Survey will be a useful mechanism to gain insight on student perspectives on sustainability. (**Howard**)
2. Contact Deans of the Enhancing Security and Sustainability Steering Committee for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenges. (**John** contacts Yannis Yortsos and Ernest Wilson)
3. Antonio meets with Dean Amber Miller to discuss advancing sustainability education. (**Antonio**)

**Call for Participation: I would like help on the following items:**

1. Following up on our conversation with Mark and Halli, Mark asked for a point of contact to help collect and distribute activities (research, teaching) in sustainability that faculty are leading across campus. This information would be used as content on the new website Halli and Mark discussed. This is not a permanent appointment – such to help get this effort launched. I am looking for one or two people to help in this capacity.
2. Graphic Designer. I want to create a visualization of the actors listed in our USC Sustainability Diagram. Please let me know if you know or have a student with these skills that would be willing to help in this effort.

**Committee Meeting Schedule for Spring 2017:**

1. Connie would like to finalize our committee meeting schedule for Spring 2017. We can proceed with the same day and time or do we need to look for another meeting time? Please email Connie and I to let us know if Monday from 8:30-10am works for your schedule or not.