Mid-Year Report from the Senate Sustainability Committee:

1. The Provost appeared at the October Senate meeting to discuss the Administration’s response to the Sustainability Plan 2020. (This document was endorsed by the Senate back in May 2015.) Subsequently, the Administration announced that it has formally adopted the Plan, and has charged the University’s Sustainability Committee to organize its implementation. In recognition of the importance of the Senate, Ginger Clark, Paula Cannon, and Jeremy Kagan have all been appointed to this Committee (see attached Committee roster and charge).

2. Our Senate committee decided to develop a draft memo that would ‘make a pitch’ to the Provost for including environmental sustainability in the short-list of key ‘wicked problems’ on which USC would focus its strategic energy. To this end, we ran a faculty survey to get a better sense of who is doing what kind of research on sustainability. Here are the results (attached). We have not moved further on this.

2. Our Committee discussed the issue of the monthly transportation subsidy being terminated, and how it was counter to a vision for sustainability. As a result, two members of the committee (Paula and Josh) met as part of a group of faculty with Provost and Sr VP of Administration, to more broadly discuss sustainable transportation issues. The committee feels that this is an area were faculty expertise can help the administration and suggested a Task Force.