

**Sustainability Committee for Academic Senate
Monthly Meeting Notes from October 10, 2016**

Present: Jeremy Kagan, Paul Adler, Dan Mazmanian, Antonio Bento, Josh Goldstein, John Silvester (by phone), Darren Ruddell, Kelly Sanders, Catherine Coleman, Ed Avol, Lessa Grunenfelder

Items discussed:

JEREMY: Provost Quick presented at Academic Senate that he had put Sustainability under the "wicked" issue of Security but in an email to all faculty he had this now on and equal status : Security and Sustainability.

KELLY: The city wide initiative might affect USC. A list handed out - under LA Sustainability Initiative - water, energy, greenhouse gas, waste management through 20 year goal. More aggressive than the state plans. Energy efficiencies goals have been strengthened recently. The list will be posted on the website. All of the goals are aggressive. Eg USC doesn't have compost and this is a future requirement. USC energy use is a big footprint - so changes will need to be done here. Who in the administration is aware of all of this and how might it be effective. State law will have time of use pricing in 2017 for electricity. Are we doing this and how? Pricing signals is a "busy" but we have no idea how the administration is now dealing with this or planning to deal with this.

DAN: Can we partner with the city? In the Mayor's office Matt Peterson says we need help with the data - that could be us. Under SB375 - transportation and housing in our region - 88 cities and these are demands that will effect SC. Like the opposite direction USC went in withdrawing support of faculty in transportation. This is planning document that policy school can work on.

PAUL: re Katherine Herrington no significant information other than the word cloud. There is a survey being done with students and the questions of how to get the issue in this is up for grabs.

There is a current working group. A contact will be made with one of the members of this group - Andrea Hodge - what might be the items relating to sustainability on this survey. Defining sustainability with the UN's 17 bigger goals. Maybe that conversation could be had. Kelly will send out to the group some reactions.

JOHN: suggests sending a note to Quick's new Sustainability Steering Committee of deans informing them of the existence of this committee and maybe a joint meeting with them is something we should set up and various members of our committee are going to contact who they know on this other committee.

JEREMY: What should we do together with TreePeople? This is a Los Angeles based organization active in urban sustainability.

There is a resolution that had been passed re sustainability that got to the board a while ago, but the present 2020 is more assertive.

Halli - with her new boss Mark - she is ready to meet. She is overwhelmed with work and no support staff. A date has been given to her to meet with us.

Others universities have a series of courses, goals and labs and actions on that advance sustainability on campus - a list from DARREN assembled and circulated this list of initiatives and will post on the website.

The STARS report history - remembering that there was an assessment made by faculty members that regarding - education, operation and buildings - USC got a very low grade - a C or lower. This report was never officially submitted to the administration and the sustainability plan was a response by all of us which has been submitted and accepted to the administration and we are all now dealing with this.

In the past Dornsife had invited experts and senior people on the issues in the past but they were not really interested in pursuing.

PAUL suggests taking to the provost what other schools have done.

DAN - how do we get the provost to do structural change - usually they will hire outside neutral consultants to make proposals. Are the provost and deans willing to listen to the message.

We are forming what our overall aspirations re sustainability may be.

Serious money from the Wrigley family that is toward an overarching sustainability center. Searching for a senior person but still remains within Dornsife. Amber Miller at Dornsife is energized.

DARREN is putting together a diagram with all the groups on campus to share with Enhancing Security and Sustainability Committee. He will see who is talking now to who.

ANTONIO'S PRESENTATION:

How security issues lead to looking at systems themselves.

We can become the natural city lab - at the metropolitan levels -

Vulnerability to terrorism - yes - and to environmental shocks as well.

Let us define environmental security.

And inter-generational security - are we designing and regulating to ensure for next generations

Most problems require teams of scholars from various disciplines to advance knowledge and action

Can we be the laboratory of action. - using the city as the lab.

the team of natural and social sciences engineering and medicine

Field defined by the problems it addresses rather than the disciplines it employs

Advances both knowledge and action by creating a bridge between two

So -

Could have a Center, or a School of - which would deal with these three

Or as you read below a less "expensive" approach. -

Concern at USC we don't have track record of large grants - to create infrastructure

At other institutions what happened and why not happen at USC

Some were stimulated by many land grant universities - Penn State and Cornell - the agricultural science then deviated into environmental sciences- private universities not in this ball game - but Forestry and marine lab evolved. Some were personality driven.

Here we are not land grant universities and we didn't start with forestry programs -

Cynical view - take too many decades for us to catch up.

Brighter View - what are the challenges of sustainability - and if we answer this question right - we can have a bright future here

1 - if we become known as institution translating science - take basic science and bring it to the areas that need this. We could save lives. How bring science to those challenged by problems

2 - develop sound public policy

3- educate and communicate sustainability challenges to create support for public policy action

4 - Urban settings, especially in the developing world

School of education, journalism and cinema school - could help and educate sustainability challenges working along with the sound public policy schools we have -

TAKING KNOWLEDGE INTO FOCUS

So with modest investment - we can put teams of interdisciplinary scholars to address URBAN sustainability challenges

public policy

Engineering and computer science with big data research

Spatial science
Medicine - preventive
School of Cinematic Arts
School of Communication and Journalism
School of Education
School of Business - the role of private practice

So for us - should it be a stand alone school (requiring a big grant) - OR - create incentives to bring all scholars together to then apply for million dollar grants -which can take years

But there need to be some INVESTMENT to bring us together.

Consider establishing a campus-wide research initiative. - USC SUSTAINABILITY SOLUTIONS LAB

take advantage of LA as urban laboratory

Develop partnerships with major metropolitan areas for access to big data in Pacific RIM region and other strategic areas of the world

Become the leader in providing local and global economy public policy solutions (that require interdisciplinary research)

Thinks of this LAB as low coast but high quality

Antonio shared his personal work in Brazil - how to protect poor from climate disasters. Created a partnership with the city of Rio to get big data. Where the city wanted help. A confidentiality agreement. Models to predict where disasters will occur. Couldn't afford to put sirens everywhere. What should be done where and how to manage rescue.

So here proposed

Urban Environmental Labs

On going efforts - US LA.com - , Brazil São Paulo and Rio - Mexico City

Future steps - India, China

We would be thought as a research consulting firm - we would be at a lower cost (COST EFFECTIVE) for the cities.

Some proposals:

consider additional investments to expand the undergrad program in Environmental Studies, sustainability science and public policy

Consider creation of Master of Sustainability Science and Public Policy

Consider creation of a PhD program and these would have access to the activities of the Sustainability Solutions Lab

A little bit of institutional support could start this out.

KELLY. Sharing research to potential funders - every time - in Texas - they would have the meetings and checks got written.

The question where the investments come from?

An initial class with 50 students which generates money.

The November meeting will focus on:

1 – Meeting with Halli Bovia and Mark Ewalt from the Office of Sustainability to share where things stand on the larger committee = the Sustainability Steering Committee created by Provost Quick which has met now over the last 5 months and has members from the faculty, administration, staff and students and has subcommittees that are preparing recommendations on specific areas – Education/Research (which Antonio is heading and presenting the above), Engagement (working on a university survey), Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emission (note that solar is off the agenda for them!), Procurement, Transportation, Waste, Water. I am enclosing notes from the meeting in July. Members of this Sustainability Steering Committee are Paul Adler, Ahlia Bethea, Hilda Blanco, Halli Bovia, Jason Chan, Mark Ewalt, Erin Fabris, Carol Fern, James Gibson, Brian Gross, Nikita Hamilton, Jeremy Kagan, Travis Longcore, Stacy Lockett, Tony Mazza, Angie Perassolo (in place of Eric Johnson), Michale Prenger, Karen Reed, David Wright.

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 November meeting.

Action Items:

1. Confirm meeting with Halli and Mark to inform this committee on the activities of the Office of Sustainability and the Sustainability Steering Committee at the November meeting. **(Darren)**
2. Build upon Kelly's list of Sustainability Initiatives Adopted by Local-State Organizations by adding information at the Regional scale. **(Dan and Darren)**
3. Update website and post minutes and relevant documents **(Darren)**
4. Update list of actors for the USC Sustainability Diagram. **(everyone)**
5. Inquire about recommending questions/content for the Provost Undergraduate Student Survey. **(Lessa)**
6. Contact Deans of the Enhancing Security and Sustainability Steering Committee for 21st Century Challenges. **(John** contacts Yannis Yortsos and Ernest Wilson; **Paul** contacts Jim Ellis; **Catherine** contacts Andrew Guzman; **Darren** contacts Amber Miller; **Dan** contacts Jack Knott)