

**Academic Senate Sustainability Committee
Monthly Meeting
February 1, 2018
Minutes**

Note taker: Kate Svyatets

Present:

Antonio Bento, Paul Adler (leading the meeting), Ann Close, Karla Heidelberg, Kyle Konis, Esther Margulies, Philine Qian

Phone/video conference: Jeremy Kagan, Dan Mazmanian

Arrival (11:00-11:05)

Prior business

* January minutes approved

Discussion on Reports on Action Item Updates (see Appendix) 11:05-11:45):

* Sustainability Calendar -- <http://green.usc.edu/events-2/>

* Stream and Archive Sustainability Events

* Sustainability Email Distribution List

* Antonio and Paul compiled it. We have 79 people so far.

* USC Procurement efforts

* Carbon neutral buildings initiative

Kyle: we will have a virtual thermostat. If enough people respond at any given time, we will have a “crowdsourced” thermostat. We could quantify what these adjustments mean. We will encourage students and staff to comment on the temperature in the room. We will give them a “virtual” thermostat, and what they would like to do – raise the temperature or lower it. We are going through the IRB approval to test this research. Then we will calculate the savings in carbon and money, and we will plan the demand response in order to adjust the comfort of the room and to reduce carbon emissions. We accumulate data over several weeks. Now we have plaques in the rooms, showing that this room participates.

Students and faculty come from different backgrounds -- some faculty wears a suit and wants lower temperatures, while students often times grow up without air conditioning.

There might be a demo of the app at the Sustainability forum.

Citizen scientists can do some real-time monitoring of the feedback, collecting data in real time.

USC School of Architecture has been very supportive and instrumental in integrating buildings in the testing program. The School of Music is interested, too, as they have experienced overcooling.

We might have long-term scholarship opportunities and seed funds through Mark (the education initiative). So far, Mark has not joined this initiative, but we will show him the demo again. This could be one of the 6-7 themes of the 2020 Sustainability. Kyle will talk to Mark on 2/1 or 2/2 about it. We could make an official proposal about the program, especially if the proposal saves the university money and promotes education.

This is an example in which we are highlighting students.

New Business:

* Philine's other updates:

Olivia is working on room reservation. For students, the last week of classes is the worst for major events.

USG candidates: we have a competitive applicant pool so far.

Parkside composting has been expanded.

Hospitality needs to stop offering receipts by default. They are testing that process at the Law School.

Reducing Waste Campaign is going on, as well. We are collecting post-consumer food, and we also compost it now.

Some information from the student groups.

Sustainability speakers' ideas – Philine has a list suggested by students (can share on demand). Examples include green entrepreneurs, waste management person, a religion/culture perspective, a tiny houses expert from Architecture. A tiny house movement is getting stronger among students

Questions:

Jeremy: Are there any changes in students' concerns? Is there an overall issue that affects the entire university? For example, the University Village does not have any solar. Are students aware of it and concerned about it?

Paul's question: How about waste reduction and recycling? Are students energized around this theme? It could encourage the administration to go further on this issue. Would it resonate with students?

Kyle: Is it even the best to energize the students around a topic, or should it be around a story? For example, a 2-5 minute video that explains USC's efforts.

Philine: We want to make sustainability more overarching for students of all majors, not just ENST or Viterbi. Policy school focuses on it just a little, but not enough for students sometimes. Philine will think about an overarching issue that would unify all the students. Students have rallied around solar, but there has been a strong pushback from the administration. It is about 40 students who care about solar.

* Ideas for Earth Month

Kate and other faculty have compiled ideas and sent them to Darren and Philine. The ESA and the student government will select viable ideas. Antonio will

add ideas to that list, bringing to the forefront the leading research groups at USC, and suggesting events that might familiarize students and faculty with major researchers at USC.

Philine, Olivia and the rest of E-Board are still collecting ideas for the Earth Month, so please still send your ideas to Philine.

* Sustainability Forum discussion

The organizing committee met at 10 a.m. today 2/1 and decided to solicit posters for the Forum from interested departments and initiatives.

Paul: in addition to other ideas proposed for the Forum, in the past we have posters from students' research. It could be potentially a bigger event, showcasing dozens of student posters. We could give people stickers to attendees to reward the best posters.

Kyle: A lot of research collaboration happens already on campus. We need to emphasize the social aspect of it, such as a happy hour with the Provost for research and tenure-track faculty. That could be a platform to share ideas with each other and making new connections to connect their research to the research of others. Especially we need such events for researchers who are new to campus. We need to be clear about the intent of the event – is it intended for building research teams and collaboration? Are we trying to attract people to your teams? We could also emphasize the upcoming Olympics.

* Bicycle security:

The School of Architecture had collected concerns about students not having enough bicycle storage/parking facilities, especially inside buildings. On other campuses, there are storage facilities for bikes inside buildings. Students are very concerned about bike safety, and we will need to talk to Francois.

Announcements (12:20-12:25)

Next meeting: March 1

Action Items (12:25 – 12:30)

1. Create workflow and documentation system to Live Stream and Archive USC Sustainability events (**Darren and Jeremy**)
2. Update on Sustainability Email Distribution List (**Paul**)
3. Invite Stacy Lockett to a committee meeting to provide update on USC Procurement activities. (**Darren**)
4. Update on demo of Thermal Comfort APP (**Kyle**)
5. Update on expanding the USC Sustainability Office (**Darren**)
6. Update on list of faculty from home departments that teach and/or conduct research on issues of sustainability (**Antonio**)
7. 2018 Sustainability Forum details – date, location, speakers, agenda, etc. (**Sustainability Forum Organizing Committee**)

Adjourn (12:30)

Upcoming Events

- February 1: E-Core Weekly Meeting
- February 5: ESA Weekly Meeting
- February 8: E-Core Weekly Meeting
- February 8: Voices for a Sustainable and Equitable Future
- February 12: ESA Weekly Meeting
- February 15: Tom Ford (the Bay Foundation) talk, 2-3 p.m., location TBA – a part of the ENST/Wrigley Sustainability Speaker Series.
- February 19: ESA Weekly Meeting
- February 21: Environmental Sustainability Professionals Seminar
- February 22: Voices for a Sustainable and Equitable Future
- February 22: E-Core Weekly Meeting
- February 25: ESA Weekly Meeting

APPENDIX: Reports on Action Items from January 2018 Committee Meeting:

8. Share events to post of newly created USC Sustainability Calendar – send event details to Darren (**All**)
Numerous events have been added to the USC Sustainability calendar. See details at: <http://green.usc.edu/events-2/>
9. Create workflow and documentation system to Live Stream and Archive USC Sustainability events (**Darren and Jeremy**)
Mark Ewalt confirmed that the USC Sustainability Office has an official Facebook account but it is currently inactive due to lack of resources. Additionally, Antonio contacted Jonathan Schwartz about streaming events using Facebook Live – meeting pending.
10. Create a Sustainability Email Distribution List – send contact information to Paul who will assemble a comprehensive list (**All**)
Paul has received about 12 email addresses – please send your contact recommendations as soon as possible.
11. Invite Stacy Lockett to a committee meeting to provide update on USC Procurement activities. This request should be directed through Mark Ewalt (**Darren**)
**Darren invited Stacy to an upcoming meeting – waiting for response. When reaching out to Mark Ewalt for input, Mark provided a brief summary of procurement efforts at USC which include:
The Procurement Assessment has been completed.
Sustainable purchasing programs are being implemented for the following commodities:
-Paper, project start January 2018**

- Cleaning supplies, project start January 2018
- Janitorial paper, project start January 2018
- Ink/Toner project start TBD
- Office supplies, project start TBD
- Electronics, project start TBD
- Medical Research, project start TBD

12. Arrange student demo of Thermal Comfort APP to help advance Carbon Neutral Building initiative (Kyle)

We have a functioning version of the app (in iOS and Andriod) and have contacted Mark Ewalt to arrange a demo. We are making some changes to the UI based on a "virtual thermostat" design that we think may streamline engagement with users. Obviously, the app won't be much good if it does not "do" anything from the perspective of end-users, so we are working with FMS to identify a list of spaces where we can start making adjustments to indoor temperatures based on user feedback. We have a draft of a plaque that we plan to install in "tagged" spaces on campus (attached). Finally, we are building support within School of Architecture to use Watt Hall and Harris Halls as testbeds.

Hello!

This space is now equipped with TrojanSense



TrojanSense is a technology developed at USC to give students and staff a means to communicate with FMS to improve thermal comfort and reduce campus energy use by identifying spaces that are being overheated or overcooled.



You can download the TrojanSense app and use it to adjust the "virtual thermostat." The app communicates with a bluetooth beacon installed in the space and asks for your feedback only when you are in the space.

This work is supported by the USC *Green Engagement Fund*. Learn more and get involved (kkonis@usc.edu).

USC School
of Architecture

USC FMS

13. Contact Mark Ewalt to discuss ways to build a case for expanding the USC Sustainability Office (Darren)
Darren will follow up with Mark in an in-person meeting.

14. Assemble list of faculty from home departments that teach and/or conduct research on issues of sustainability – send list to Antonio (**All**)

Antonio has received some suggestions but is waiting for additional input.

15. Create Organizing Committee to organize and lead the USC Sustainability Forum event for Spring 2018 (**Darren**)

The following people are included in the 2018 Sustainability Forum Organizing Committee: Kate Svyatets, Philine Qian, Antonio Bento, Karla Heidelberg, Jeremy Kagan, Ann Close, Esther Margulies, Paul Adler, and Darren Ruddell. This group has engaged in a discussion of potential topics to feature at the 2018 Sustainability Forum. A proposal will be presented to the Sustainability Committee on Thursday, Feb 1.

Updates from USG:

Philine has been working to promote applications for USG delegate positions and the sustainability director position. USG sustainability advocacy is continuing last semester's projects in food waste/food education campaign and receipts initiative.

USG is also reorganizing the Green Engagement Fund structure for the 2018-2019 academic year. ESA is programming events for Earth Month + E-Core's focus for the next month is on the expansion of the native plants garden, for which they received funding from GEF.

Other Business:

Kate Svyatets: Ideas for Earth Month

The Student Professionalization Committee in ENST compiled several ideas that might be implemented during the Earth Month for students:

- 1. Composting Workshop (the Parkside composting site)**
- 2. Urban garden tour**
- 3. Beach clean-up**
- 4. The L.A. River clean-up <https://foliar.org/cleanup-2018/>**
- 5. More long term – Become Ambassadors of LA river <https://foliar.org/education/become-an-la-river-docent/>**