

USC Sustainability Committee

Meeting Minutes for April 3, 2017

Attendance:

- In the room: Paul Adler, Edward Avol, Lessa Grunenfelder, Kelly Sanders, Josh Goldstein, Catherine Coleman, Esther Margulies
- On the phone: Andre Ouellette
- Meeting Minutes: Kelly Sanders

Academic Senate Endorsement of Sustainability Strategy 2030

We opened by discussing the Academic Senate Endorsement of Sustainability Strategy 2030. Paul mentioned that Yannis Yortos, Dean of Viterbi and head of the Dean's Task Force, voiced strong support for the 2030 proposal. The document has also gone out to various student clubs and organizations to rally support. To date, there is no timeline, deadline or next meeting planned that we know of for discussing the Sustainability Strategy.

USC Sustainability Dialogue

Logistics: April 27th 12-2pm at Tutor Campus Center Forum

We are trying to get student groups to mobilize their members to show up to the Dialogue. The motivation behind the event is to bring the 2030 plan to the USC community to build momentum behind the plan to put pressure on the administration to implement. The event agenda will include a presentation by Mark and Halli to present progress on USC's 2020 sustainability plan. Engineering Dean Yannis Yortsos will talk about the work of his Dean's Task Force and his support of the plan. The Provost will not be able to make the event. After presentations, the floor will be opened for comment, and student groups will have the opportunity to voice their support or criticism of the plan. Darren is working to advertise the event on social media. Paul mentioned that food would be a good way to get more attendance, so he will check if there is budget.

Environment Fair

Lessa will be representing the committee at the fair. (Andre will not be able to attend due to travel.) Darren will be providing literature regarding the 2030 plan. The committee thought that

a flyer would be good to distribute to advertise 1) the 2030 plan and 2) the USC sustainability dialogue event. Ed mentioned that a sign or poster to advertise the committee's efforts and the USC sustainability dialogue would also be good to have on hand at the booth.

Staff Assembly Presentation

May 4th: Darren will present to 2030 plan to the Staff Assembly.

Open discussion on 2030 plan

Ed raised the concern that the committee's activities could be dismissed as simply a bureaucratic exercise in paperwork/ academic discussion, so we have to focus on how to move forward on following up with the plan and continuing to put pressure on the administration. Paul commented that the 2030 document is the first step to begin mobilizing support for a sustainability plan and the USC Sustainability Dialogue will be important to continue building support for that plan. His hope is the USC Sustainability Dialogue will mobilize student organizations to put pressure on the administration. We are expecting to get an endorsement from undergraduate and staff assembly groups there.

Paul mentioned that we should try to get more endorsements from members of the USC committee—perhaps an email message with a flyer and a URL to sign a letter of commitment. Lessa suggested getting a website set up for people (students, faculty staff) to sign a petition. Paul thought that Halli's new sustainability website might be a good place to host it. Paul will contact Mark and Halli about this. Ed mentioned that we might also post an advertisement for the petition in the Daily Trojan. Lessa suggested that we also advertise the Dialogue in the Daily Trojan.

Catherine mentioned that we should talk to the students that lead prospective student tours of campus to see if prospective students have been commenting on sustainability (or the lack there of) at USC.

Paul mentioned that we could help push forward the USC Sustainability Steering Committee's 2020 plan. The committee thought it would be good to get an update from Mark and Halli, possibly at the May 1st meeting.

Paul brought up the point that our committee might be best suited to focus on the research and teaching mission related to sustainability. Catherine commented that the law's Sustainability program is poor and the idea was raised that we might document deficiencies across the various academic programs on weaknesses in sustainability curriculum. This might be an issue for the Faculty Senate to take up. Josh suggested that this should be an action item to bring to the Faculty Senate that each school create a statement on their respective school's weaknesses/strengths on sustainability curriculum.

We talked about the Wrigley Institute and the potential for more funding to Dornsife for that program. This prompted a broader conversation about money and Antonio's proposal. We discussed how we might support Antonio's plan, but it wasn't clear how we would position ourselves to push the agenda forward. Esther suggested that we might find a way to internally organize ourselves to push something from a research perspective.

Action Items:

1. Prepare an emailable flyer on 2030 and a separate one on the Forum (**Darren and Paul**)
2. We need a website where people can sign expressions of support and add comments -- that URL should be on the flyers. Paul thought that Halli's new sustainability website might be a good place to host it. Paul will contact Mark and Halli about this. Or even better if this is on the Senate's website -- can you check with Paula to see if that's doable?? (**Paul**)
3. We should try to get more endorsements from members of the USC community (students, faculty staff) -- need a real 'campaign. We should post an advertisement for the Forum and petition in the Daily Trojan. (**Darren and Paul**)
4. We should get a DT story about the 2030 Vision and the upcoming Forum (**Darren**)