

USC Sustainability Committee

09Jan2017 meeting

Present: Darren Ruddell (Committee Chair), Ed Avol (Assigned note-taker), Jeremy Kagan, Josh Goldstein, Catharine Coleman, Andre Ouellette, Lessa Grunenfelder, Lucio Soibelman (Chair of Civil Engineering, invited guest)

On Phone: Howard Greenwald, Paul Adler, Greys Sosic (Marshall School of Business, invited guest)

Called to Order @ 0838

[Meeting agenda: main focus, to discuss USC 2030 Sustainability Vision Statement draft]

Reports:

Minutes from Dec 2016 meeting – no comments on meeting notes; accepted by consensus

Provost Undergraduate Student Survey – Over the semester break/holidays, Lessa has tried to reach out to at least two members of committee, but no feedback yet. Howard will meet with Zach Manta and Sarah Berry (student leadership in Environmental Core group who attended Dec 2016 sustainability committee meeting to present on their activities) on Wed Jan11, so he may find out more then (but the Provost's survey is a different survey than the focus of the Wednesday meeting). Lessa will keep trying to make contact and get a response, now that school is back in session ...

Academic Senate Mtg 14Dec – Darren summarized his participation at the Academic Senate meeting, at which he provided an update on our committee efforts (as a periodic general sub-committee informational update to the Academic Senate).

An ad hoc discussion developed, raised by general questions and confusion over what which sustainability committee (Academic Senate, Deans', sub-committee, staff) was doing. Comments were made about efforts and progress of Mark Ewalt's / Halli Bovia's USC university sustainability steering committee (which includes faculty,, staff, & students), which led to additional questions about what is going on with USC Vision 2020. It was noted that David Wright runs the Academic Senate Sustainability committee with oversight for various sub-committees, so we should ask David Wright about status – which subcommittees have met, which are defunct, etc? A suggestion was made to invite David Wright to the February meeting of this Sustainability Committee.

USC 2030 Vision Statement: the motivation is to develop a broader vision for USC with 2030 goals, building upon the foundation of other universities' visions and the sense that USC should take more of a leadership role. One possible objective might be for the Academic Senate (which will be meeting in a few weeks) to consider the larger Vision and provide motivation for the university administration to more aggressively move forward. Over the holiday break, initial sections of a draft report were developed to get something useful together to weigh in, in a timely manner, with Provost's push to move on some key elements of his "Wicked Problems" Task Force agendas. There was an expressed sense from some members of the sub-

committee that the assembled Deans' Task Forces on these Wicked Problems might be meeting soon and were likely develop more tempered or incremental sustainability approaches than what we might propose or prefer.

The overview for the 2030 Vision document was that this would be a relatively short document and serve as a "prompt" for USC to expand upon; an expressed goal was for each of seven content areas to be summarized in perhaps one or two pages. To facilitate expression of the draft content area sections, some targeted faculty members across campus (Lucio Soibelman [energy perspectives from Civil Engineering], Greys Sosic [supply chain considerations from Marshall], Karla Heidelberg [Environmental Studies Program] had been contacted to augment the draft. (The proposed USC 2030 Vision content areas, and current leads, are as follows: Education & Research – Antonio Bento, Karla Heidelberg; Community Engagement – Lessa Grunenfelder; Energy Conservation – Lucio Soibelman & Kelly Sanders; Transportation – Ed Avol; Procurement – Greys Sosic; Waste Diversion – Josh Goldstein; Water Conservation – Andre Ouellette; Goals & Strategies – Paul Adler & Catherine Coleman; Summary – Catherine Coleman).

As of this morning, Darren had received five content-area drafts (education/research and community engagement still needed). The next step is to distill the various content sections down to ~1pg, with consistent formatting, and make it presentable to the Academic Senate in the next week.

Paul suggested that a one-paragraph summary would also be useful for each content area, to place in 2030 Vision Statement. Supporting materials, such as achievements and approaches of other universities, might best be placed in an appendix. This would keep the main Vision statement concise and readable, but still provide authoritative documentation that other universities are moving forward on sustainability. It would also provide a convenient "in-the-gap" analysis – how far ahead or behind USC is with respect to other universities...

Paul felt we shouldn't provide too many specifics in the main document, but rather present the broader vision. Lucio noted that their 2030 vision (based on the 2020 goals and longer-term plans) were already pretty aggressive (e.g., zero carbon neutrality in all USC buildings by 2030).

It was suggested that the energy conservation section be used as the template for how to format/edit/rewrite the other respective sections, and that a second draft be submitted by close-of-business Friday Jan 13.

Josh observed that he saw three related themes across all content areas: (a) data collection to understand where we are; (2) a testbed approach to review data and make best use of them; (3) a need for a set of values (and funding) beyond a 5yr plan to make this all happen.

Paul suggested that the last summary section should focus on the strategy to implementation. Jeremy asked who will collect the needed baseline data for the respective content areas – Lucio and Josh answered that different sources will provide this – on energy, for example, it would be facilities. Some of the data gathering and evaluation could also be an opportunity for education.

Paul offered that the Vision doesn't need to be grounded in USC; it could be appropriate to use what is known nationally or internationally – the university should lead, not just follow. The vision document should be a conversation opener, not an outcome...

Darren suggested a deadline for an updated draft by Friday Jan13. Then, Darren and Paul could work on revisions over the weekend, compile the document, and send it to the Academic Senate next week.

Jeremy asked if there was any way to leverage the Athletic Department's accomplishments at the Coliseum with regard to a "zero waste" operation. There was some discussion about personnel involved in the process, but no specific "take-home" applications of the Coliseum experience offered or agreed upon.

Other Items for Committee Consideration:

Climate Action Letter: Paul shared an action letter signed by numerous other universities about to be submitted to the new Federal administration, and raised the questions as to shouldn't USC consider being a signatory? Approval for such an action would need to happen in days; there was consensus approval to send the letter forward to the Academic Senate, asking to move it up to University Administration.

City Speaker Visit/ Sustainability: Over the holidays, Ed exchanged some emails with Dan Mazmanian regarding inviting Matt Peterson (City of LA Chief Sustainability Officer) to visit USC in the spring semester and speak (informally) to a class (or multiple classes) of students, or possibly to a larger university audience. Dan had suggested we might want to ask a staffer rather than Matt, or at least be more strategic about Matt's limited availability for a most productive USC visit. A discussion about the merits of this then ensued in the course of the meeting, regarding the scale, scope, and advantages/disadvantages of such an invitation and visit. Discussions included concerns about successful audience participation, timing of such a visit, possible meetings with faculty, on-campus sustainability committees, staff, administration, etc. It was decided to continue the conversation but not act on it decisively at this point in time.

Proposed action items:

Possible guests to invite to a future committee mtg – David Wright (USC Academic Senate Sustainability); Andy Lipkis (TreePeople).

Action items from this January meeting:

- 1) Touch base with Antonio and Karla regarding Research & Education section of 2030 Vision Statement to encourage use of format provided by Energy Conservation content area (**Darren**);
- 2) Climate Action Letter to be forwarded to Paula Cannon/Academic Senate for timely endorsement & follow-up (**Darren**)
- 3) Follow-up on possible Matt Peterson visit with Dan Mazmanian, who most logically might be USC liaison (**Ed**)
- 4) Development of draft invitation letter to David Wright to attend sub-committee meeting (**Josh**)

- 5) Announce deadline for revised one-page content area statements for USC 2030 Vision Statement, close of business on Friday Jan13 (**all area section leads**, send to Darren)
- 6) Contact Andy Lipkis from TreePeople and see if he is available to meet with the Sustainability Committee this semester (**Jeremy**)

Next meeting of the committee will be Monday Feb 6 from 0830 to 1000.

Meeting adjourned at 0954.