

**Academic Senate Sustainability Committee  
Monthly Meeting Notes from January 11, 2018**

**Note taker: Kate Svyatets**

**Present:**

Darren Ruddell, Antonio Bento, Erin Moore, Paul Adler, Ann Close, Karla Heidelberg, Esther Margulies, Catherine Coleman, Erin Fabris, Kyle Konis, Philine Qian (USG)

**Visitors:**

Ken Neelson (Director of Wrigley Institute)  
Chaone Mallory (Environmental Studies Program)

**Phone/video conference:** Jeremy Kagan

Arrival (11:00-11:05)

**Prior business**

December minutes approved

*Paul:* Updates would be appreciated beforehand, so that in the meetings we will spend time mostly discussing the updates after we have already read them. Even if the updates are short and informal, but they need to be in the written format beforehand. Then we will have a little folder of materials.

**New business (11:05-11:45)**

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

- Mark was happy with this idea. Something is already open. Mark has asked input on what items we can counter. Send all the events to Darren first, and Darren will pass them to Mark for posting.
- Sustainability Prize, ENST Speaker Series, and other events will be posted there.
- Also, Sustainability Spring Break.
- ESA (Philine) has already been in communication with Mark for dates.
- March 5<sup>th</sup>, a sustainability talk that will be posted there.
- January 24<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Sarah Friedman, location TBA
- Also, several other events from Antonio (the Voices Seminar)
- There will be a column for upcoming events on our agenda monthly.
- Also, there is a speaker on environmental justice and toxic chemicals from chemicals.

*Jeremy:* do we videotape the talks? If so, can we stream them on Facebook Live or at least recorded. Antonio's seminar series already plans to utilize videos, especially in Asia in the Global Master's program in which students want to see the tapes or to participate online.

*Jeremy:* Facebook Live – you turn your cell phone and video record it and put it live online. It is very easy to do. We can advertise the event across campus and across the globe.

We need to update Facebook page account for Sustainability initiatives, and we will find equipment.

Do we want to try to compile the email distribution list for events? Paul has compiled about 150-people list, which we can “marry with” other distribution lists. Asking people just to check the calendar is less effective – getting the announcements out to mailboxes directly. Please email lists of faculty to Paul, so he can expand the list and send out the updates.

#### **Summary report on UC Sustainability Offices (Erin and Catherine)**

We have examined sustainability offices on other campuses. We are making the case that we need to expand the sustainability office at USC.

Catherine has received responses from surveys that Halli Bovia had sent out.

Supplemental organizational charts from other universities were received, too. The responses are from 2016, so they are slightly outdated, but that is what we have no to summarize.

There is a report that summarizes sustainability reports about a large number of schools (Erin). Catherine and Erin concluded it seems that almost all schools had a sustainability office that was connected to the top levels of administration, permanently funded, larger than at USC. USC is behind in terms of numbers and funding for the sustainability office. USC is not doing enough by any stretch.

We will share this with Mark and will build a case and will ask for additional positions. The Senate could also send it to Provost Michael Quick. There is also an executive committee at the Senate, and we could email him. We will sit down with Mark and suggest opening the conversation with him about expanding the sustainability office. We will ask Mark's advice about what can be done and how to shape this argument with the Provost.

#### **Seminar Series (Wrigley; Environmental Policy)**

We have two seminar series going on.

*Karla:* ENST Sustainability Seminar -- it is funded by an ENST donor. The series will be driven by students and faculty. The first speaker will be from Sierra Club (Sarah Friedman). The first hour will be on the topic and the second hour will be on

professional development. We are coordinating with the class. Kate Svyatets is leading the organizing for the venue. It is initially planned monthly, maybe more often.

*Antonio:* The Voices for Sustainable Future Seminar -- another series with the Schwarzenegger Institute, Solutions Lab, and Price – people give ideas for speakers and the departments will host the speakers. The first speaker will be on Environmental Complexity, linking social sciences with physical sciences (January 2018).

In February, there will be a dean from China who will be talking about sustainability, as well. Later on, there will be another speaker from Asia who will be talking about NGOs in China that organize around the waste issue.

There will be also program office from NASA who will be talking about climate projects. There will be also a speaker with the medical background who was a faculty member at USC. We are asked to host and provide lunch, using some of the departmental money. We will see if this series will be financially sustainable. Also, speakers will be providing students with professional advice. The frequency will dependent on funding. Potentially, we can partner this series with Karla's seminar series. In the next four weeks, we are finalizing the gift from a donor to formalize this gift and to solicit names. We are looking for names from interdisciplinary centers and other institutions, as well.

Next meeting: we can discuss some potential names for speakers for Antonio. It would be very useful to have a volunteer who will be organizing these seminars. As we have these speakers coming, we can have rotating volunteers to organize seminars. Someone needs help facilitate communication with the department, because there is a lot of correspondence on the academic side. We will need to screen the academic content of the talks, making sure they appeal to different groups.

### **Carbon neutral buildings initiative (Kyle)**

Kyle's updates: there is now support with the Facilities to collect data. We intent to survey indoor temperatures to avoid overheating or overcooling, and to improve energy efficiency. Now the app is tested on one building, and the funding is only from the Faculty Development Fund. Hopefully, a demo soon will be rolled out wider and will be further funded.

Optimistically, by next week, we will have an iOS demo, and we will also see it at the next meeting.

We plan also to notify the Deans and to install QR codes and beacons in the classrooms. We are doing a lot of outreach for awareness. Also, we are in touch with faculty with large classes to test it first there (e.g. Kate Svyatets who teaches a 75-people class).

*Paul:* There is potential to get funding from 2020 plan for educational programs and research. Paul has discussed Kyle's project with Mark, and Mark is interested. There is an opportunity for bigger funding for research support. We can demo for Mark and FMS.

### **USC Procurement efforts (Erin and Philine)**

Philine met with Stacy who is on the Sustainability 2020 Committee, and she is responsible for procurement. Procurement has got a new director. Now are evaluating how good USC is in procurement along five categories.

Right now, we are rolling out some improvements.

The main thing is to provide sustainable paper.

Paper, cleaning supply, ink, etc.

Paper is the goal that USC is now really behind on, and we need to change policies, such as about paper towels, printer paper from recycled sources.

By the summer, new plans will be rolled out in procurement to make it more sustainable. We will also expand the budget, to make sure that we have enough funding to purchase more sustainable products.

Students cannot do much in this process of negotiating with companies. But students and faculty might share ideas about more sustainable procurement.

Styrofoam – there is a brochure at USC of different products that everyone should buy. Styrofoam might be cheaper than other options, so we need to find cheaper, more sustainable products, and we will need to update the brochure. Usually, departments buy the cheapest.

*Jeremy:* do other universities have policies about Styrofoam and other substances? *Erin:* Probably, yes, Berkeley for sure has such a policy.

Our committee could also find the list of products that other universities do not buy in principle, and we can initiate a similar list at USC, keeping in mind that the decision will need to be also financial. We will also need to invite the Sustainability 2020 committee representative for an update about procurement. They will also need to send some materials in advance. Stacy Lucket is the right person to be invited.

### **Sustainability Courses (Josh)**

Josh is not here but Darren updated everyone on this issue.

There is interest in cataloguing and identifying courses that have sustainability aspects in them. Josh is now doing research on this.

### **LA Global Cities (Darren)**

Darren gave an update on the Sustainability Committee at December Senate meeting. L.A. Global Cities is focused on the Sustainability and the Millennium Goals in L.A. It is organized by individuals from Occidental College, and they look to partner with other universities. It is an opportunity for expanding out activities beyond campus. See file posted on Dropbox.

### **USG updates (Spring activities; suggestions from Dean Fliegel)**

*Philine:* There has not yet been a USG meeting. Next week, there will be a meeting and new updates.

The document about Fliegel and Darren's meeting: the GE for sustainability is not happening. The other items were just summary points from the meeting, to see what will be most attractive for students (top three, for example).

Events at USG: ESA and E-Core meetings time and place. Catalina trip for sustainability leaders. The Earth Month is also coming up, with Kyle's project about carbon neutral buildings will be also included.

The Sustainability Forum could be a Capstone event of the Earth Month, too.

Also, if there are ideas about the Earth Month, please submit them to Philine.

*Karla:* This summer, we are resubmitting the NSF renewal on coastal NSF policies/science. If anyone has ideas for the proposal, please submit them to Karla. It is a summer program. We host students from all over the U.S.

### **USC Sustainable Solutions Lab (Antonio)**

Things are moving along – there was a meeting with Dean of the Dornsife College. The College is in discussion with a senior faculty member to help on leadership. Also, the Economics department has hired a new faculty member on Environmental Economics. The Dean has also plans to bring someone in the physical sciences and chemistry.

Both Viterbi and Price made a monetary commitment of \$300,000 each for three years. Also, the Medical School has an environmental health group, and this group is also onboard. There will be soon a meeting with the Dean of the Medical School.

By the mid-semester, we will have a clear idea what deans are onboard. The dean of the School of Architecture is also interested. The more deans we will have involved, the more successful the budget of the Solutions Lab will be. To engage the students, we are developing the web-page. Soon the competition will be announced for a logo for the LA among ENST students, with an award offered.

Soon we will start zooming in on Education programs, such as professional Master's degrees. We want to make sure that it is clear to the College, and it will strengthen the undergraduate education. Professional education will go to the professional schools. We will need to figure out who it is all connected under the best possible "research umbrella."

Everybody at USC who does sustainability-related research is welcome to participate (Law, Engineering, Business, etc.) Also, please send to Antonio the list of people from your programs who do sustainability research. It will help with evaluating potential for

grants and research dollars generated for USC. We need to document the critical mass of research faculty that generate grant dollars in sustainability.

We also need to show strength and engagement, even if it does not translate directly to dollars. It will show the general interest in the university.

*Jeremy:* The School of Cinematic Arts also will participate, and Jeremy will send suggestions.

*Kyle:* in the School of Architecture, we have projects and faculty for sustainable architecture, but not necessary research dollars from federal funded grants and other grants with large overheads. *Antonio:* research grants are important for the success for the Lab.

### **Sustainability Forum**

The focus of the Sustainability Forum this year can be:

- To discuss the Solutions Lab
- Discussing Sustainability 2020
- To showcase student research
- To discuss other sustainability initiatives

*Paul:* We can organize a sub-committee for organizing the Forum specifically. We can also have one student on this sub-committee. Last year, the Sustainability Office funded the food.

*Jeremy:* We could also include more radical issues: solar within USC, etc. We don't need to be only mild-mannered.

*Darren:* Last year, we needed participation from some key people. There is a deadline for student events. Committee members interested in serving on the Sustainability Forum Organizing Committee include: Karla, Antonio, Kate, Ann, Philine, Esther, Jeremy, and Darren.

*Philine:* In March or April, ESA will be interviewing students for student government positions in the USG. Philine is looking for recommendations for names of students for next year. It is about 10 hours a week or more. It is a paid position.

Erin Fabris is leaving for a sustainability position at UCLA.

### **Action Items:**

1. Share events to post of newly created USC Sustainability Calendar – send event details to Darren (**All**)
2. Create workflow and documentation system to Live Stream and Archive USC Sustainability events (**Darren and Jeremy**)

3. Create a Sustainability Email Distribution List – send contact information to Paul who will assemble a comprehensive list **(All)**
4. Invite Stacy Lockett to a committee meeting to provide update on USC Procurement activities. This request should be directed through Mark Ewalt **(Darren)**
5. Arrange student demo of Thermal Comfort APP to help advance Carbon Neutral Building initiative **(Kyle)**
6. Contact Mark Ewalt to discuss ways to build a case for expanding the USC Sustainability Office **(Darren)**
7. Assemble list of faculty from home departments that teach and/or conduct research on issues of sustainability – send list to Antonio **(All)**
8. Create Organizing Committee to organize and lead the USC Sustainability Forum event for Spring 2018 **(Darren)**