

Chancellor's Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, November 18th, 2:00 - 3:30 PM

Attendance Voting Members: David Lea, Garry Mac Pherson, Renee Bahl, Janey Walker, Julie Hendricks, Kaitlyn Nguyen, Cali Pflieger, Mark Brzezinski, Hunter Lenihan, Britt Ortiz, Kristin Antelman, Kathryn Foster, Susannah Scott, Sangwon Suh, Roland Geyer

Other Attendees: Jewel Persad (Staff), Barbara Haya, Mo Lovegreen (Advisor), Katie Maynard,

Announcements (2:03 - 2:10)

- A. [Cool Block](#) Information Session - Running a program called Cool Blocks to introduce students to a low carbon lifestyle, doing two introduction sessions next week. Nice thing about this is that students have an opportunity to interact on a weekly basis with their peers through Zoom
- B. STEP Grant for Isla Vista Transportation - Partnered with 10 orgs and got funding for transportation planning in IV, \$250,000 over 5 years.
- C. GCLC grant proposal for curriculum virtual conference, will be receiving \$45k for the conference and pulling together a faculty advisory committee for the conference.
- D. CSC Membership
 - a. [Membership](#)
 - b. Call for nominations for new membership - Call for nominations for one new faculty and one new student representative. Nominations due Friday, December 4th, 2020. The potential member's name and a brief paragraph explaining why they are interested in serving on the committee should be sent to the committee co-chairs by the indicated deadline.

Updates (2:10 – 2:28):

- A. STARS Submittal - Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to gauge relative progress toward sustainability (including its social, economic, and environmental components). This rating system helps to determine our ranking as a sustainability leader in publications such as Princeton Review (which many prospective students consider) and Sierra Club's Cool Schools Report. We are currently working on data entry for reporting year 17/18, 18/19, and 19/20 and plan to present to CSC during our winter Quarter meeting. The submission deadline is March 1st, 2021.
- B. GCLC Readout - David Lea
We talked about the role of offsets and biogas in meeting carbon neutrality. We also discussed challenges associated with natural gas (about 70% of our emissions) mostly coming from ~7 cogen campuses. The basic bottom line is that they are really hard to get

rid of. We talked about adaptation and resilience at UC campuses, evacuation because of fires, air quality, power shutoffs, etc. We had a really interesting presentation on equity and climate justice, as well as a presentation on climate change and health.

Next order of business was hearing from our new President Drake, he joined our meeting and spent 30 minutes talking to us about his vision for carbon neutrality and then spent 30 minutes on Q & A. He was really engaged and I think he will be a great leader. We had an update from David Phillips on the nuts and bolts of CNI, he reported that CO₂e emissions are roughly 35% lower per GSF than 10 years ago.

When is the next meeting schedule for GCLC? I think it is February

How much of the emissions reductions have come from outsourcing? My sense these are real reductions primarily through energy efficiency and renewable energy.

C. Informal CSC meeting recaps - Jewel Persad

D. Sustainable Transportation Committee Update - Roland Geyer

We discussed the new changes to metering which allows for more flexibility about how rates are set. We also learned that the AS Bike Committee sent a letter to the Chancellor asking that the Parking Rate Payers Board be reformed. We learned that UCSB has one of the lowest parking rates. We had a vote to support that letter AS sent. The Transportation committee will bring the letter back to the CSC to see if this committee is also interested in supporting the letter.

Discussion

There are some concerns about equity if we were to increase parking rates. We need to take into account the need and affordability for our lowest paid employees.

It might not be a bad idea to bring the TPS director to one of these meetings to talk about parking rates.

One of the students requested focus on flexibility in parking, and the Parking Rates Board would be necessary to make any changes. The impetus was to look at more creative ways at setting parking rates. The rates haven't changed in 15 years and the Board hasn't met in a number of years.

We are not currently proposing any changes to the rate structure, just the reformation of the committee.

Minutes (2:28 – 2:30):

A. Approve Meeting Min. from October & November (attached) - Approved

Any changes to the minutes, accept minutes

Discussion & Presentations (2:30 – 3:15):

- A. Presentation on the UC Systemwide Draft Offset Policy - Barbara Haya

[Here is the presentation](#)

Discussion & Questions

Is a credit defined per 1 ton of CO₂? Yes. Roughly 1 gigaton of credits have been developed. Around ½ of these credits have been retired.

Under forestry and land use, how long do you have to avoid deforestation? Forestry is the most problematic protocol but different protocols have different requirements. Most U.S. projects have 100 year permanence requirements.

UC-Initiated Offset Projects have a number of benefits, easy to confirm additionality, money goes back into UC, as more and more companies take on carbon neutrality goals there is a mismatch in demand and supply, so UC initiated could be a price hedge.

We did an RFI and got a wonderful set of 80 projects, of which we gave pilot funding to 12 projects. Two were UCSB projects, Unite to Light solar lanterns and Adopt a Cookstove (distribute high efficiency cookstove in Rwanda). Sangwon Suh is leading the Cookstove project. Through the cookstove project a lot of research and monitoring is being done to determine how much carbon we are offsetting. Inefficient cookstoves cause premature deaths and these cook stoves really reduce smoke and pollution.

LED light offset is instead of kerosene (also has health benefits)

Is there some assumption of how long the cookstoves and lights last? They do testing to see how long they last and there is also additional monitoring.

Why does the Uganda cookstove project have much higher expected tons? These were initial estimates.

Purpose of policy is to ensure quality of offsets.

Three parts, policy section, procedures section (how we are going to meet the policy), and guiding doc.

What kind of structure will be in place to ensure criteria outlined in the policy? Barbara is doing research now on this and will leave clear guidance on how to evaluate offset projects. We will develop a body responsible for doing peer review of the projects.

What is the prospect near term given the budget crisis?

What costs are we looking at per year? \$100k - \$200k for UCSB vs \$4M cost systemwide.

What Barbara is putting together is trying to ensure substance to offsets.

UC initiated offsets are a real positive. Sangwon Suh was approaching his offset project from a critical angle and thinks what UC is doing is the right thing. He's seen offset projects that had no real additionality, UC isn't just buying these cheap offsets, we are trying to move the market.

- B. [Annual Report Highlights](#) - [See slides](#)

Action Items (3:15 – 3:20):

- A. Vote to send [Annual Report to the Chancellor](#) - All the favor

Open Items (3:20 – 3:30):

Is the call for nominations for voting members? Yes. Current process is to go to the Co-Chairs.