

## **Chancellor's Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes**

Informal Meeting on Environmental Justice

Monday, November 2·11:00am – 12:30pm

<https://ucsb.zoom.us/j/89105526936?pwd=RXMyQIBDdldmbENuVmtmWVhsMjdwZz09>

Meeting ID: 891 0552 6936

Passcode: 881752

**CSC Voting Members in Attendance:** Kaitlyn Nguyen, Britt Ortiz, David Lea, Mark Brzezinski, Janet Walker, Landry Guillen, Cali Pflieger, Eric McFarland, Kathryn Foster

CSC Staff and Advisors in Attendance: Jewel Persad, Mo Lovegreen,

Non-CSC Member Attendees: Andrew Riley, Katie Maynard, Diana Garcia, Alexa Kerr,

### **Introductions (11:00– 11:05):**

New GSA Rep Cali Pflieger, PhD student, Bren School

### **Announcements (11:05 - 11:07)**

Virtual Town Hall on Draft Offset Policy - November 4th & 10 AM

<https://ucsb.zoom.us/j/86474438523> Meeting ID: 864 7443 8523

Funding for the CNI fellowship program has been secured and we are now seeking students for one project based fellowship and one student engagement fellowship.

For project based fellowships, students have the opportunity to develop their own project proposals. This year we also got approval for CNI fellows to work on climate justice.

### **Updates on Current Work (11:07 – 11:20):**

- Update on work of the Environmental Justice Alliance - Diana Garcia, Co-Chair EJA looks to center the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) community in the environmental justice movement. Our initiatives include:
  - UC Sustainable Practices Policy Campaign - We just hired a student intern who is going to work with other stakeholders to review the UC Sustainable Practices policy. We are working with UC-wide sustainability to get SSC self education training.
  - Incorporating EJ into Environmental Studies Curriculum - ES has been doing some great work already and we plan to continue to work on how we can center that.
    - looking at what courses exist currently for EJ
    - looking at faculty/hiring processes.
  - E-waste Certification and EJ Implications

- Looking to make sure we continue to use an E-steward certified e-waste contractor and do not use an R-2 contractor. R-2 contractors can utilize prison labor.
- From chat: comparison of e-steward and R2 certification: [http://www.electronicstakeback.com/wp-content/uploads/Chart\\_Comparing\\_R2\\_eStewards1.pdf](http://www.electronicstakeback.com/wp-content/uploads/Chart_Comparing_R2_eStewards1.pdf)

## Discussion

Can you give us a couple examples of EJ framework for sustainability?

Yes, looking at different certifications for e-waste, with R-2 they have prison labor. So thinking about how our choices affect people.

Question - EAB has one voting member on the committee, if EJA wanted to, how could we go about adding them as a voting member on the committee?

Response - We are hoping to first find a new faculty member focused on EJ who would like to serve on the committee. We tried to recruit a faculty but haven't been successful. First step is to recruit a faculty member and then a student.

Followup - Why do we need to first recruit a faculty member? They bring a longer term commitment and scholarly expertise.

It was suggested that this is brought back to the next committee meeting as an agenda item where we could discuss the possibility of EJA representation, additional faculty seats, and any other nominations. Attendees were encouraged to share nominations with the Co-Chairs, David and Renee.

It was also pointed out that while having another faculty expert on EJ would be valuable, we do already have one faculty expert on EJ currently serving on our committee. Dr. Janet Walker, faculty member, is Vice Chair of Film and Media Studies and an affiliate faculty member of the Department of Feminist Studies. Dr. Walker's research and scholarly work focuses on environmental justice.

Please see Dr. Walker's biography here:

<https://www.filmandmedia.ucsb.edu/person/janet-walker/>

- Update on self-education working group
  - UCSB Sustainability Staff meet every 1.5 weeks to discuss issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in campus sustainability.
  - Discuss readings regarding DEI, Environmental Justice, etc and prioritize the work written by authors of color.
  - Consider how to apply what we learn to our work in campus sustainability.
  - Some of the topics covered: Calling in and calling out in a work environment, How non-POC allies can self-educate, Environmental Justice approaches to public feedback processes, etc.

- Direction of UC-System
  - DEI - support from the Systemwide Sustainability Steering committee (SSC) to pursue inclusion of DEI and EJ in the UC Policy on Sustainable Practices
  - UC Sustainability drafting a statement focusing on anti-black racism with action items. Debating whether the SSC will be asked to co-sign this or to author a separate statement.
  - DEI training/consultant proposal for GCLC and sustainability
  - Working Groups Chairs developing action items
  - Climate justice & resiliency incorporated into GCLC Pillars

**Discussion (11:20 – 12:10):**

- What is Sustainability?
  - Roots of Sustainability - Sustainability is a concept developed as a broad vision for human society in all aspects.
- Why is it important to discuss scope?
  - Sustainability is both evolving and starting to remember our roots.
  - If we do not recognize issues of concern for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, our demographics will not shift.
- Sustainable Development Goals
  - The Sustainable Development Goals are one such framework. We are not presenting them here as the final answer or ideal model though, only as one basis for inspiration.
  - A number of campuses and sustainability departments have adopted SDGS
  - Zoom poll question - Which of the following Sustainable Development Goals do you think should be included in the Scope of UCSB Sustainability?

**Reactions to the poll** - now that you see the results, any thoughts.

I was surprised Hunger was as low as it was given our focus on food on our campus.

Part of what we should think about is what is the realm we work in and what we want to prioritize? As we get into EJ issues sometimes there is the question, what is our scope? How could SDG apply to us?

This brings up a board concept of looking more deeply at the impacts of our decisions within sustainability. How do we interweave SDGS into sustainability?

The EPA connects the pieces through meaningful involvement - Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people. Meaningful involvement means:

- People have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health;
- The public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision;
- Community concerns will be considered in the decision making process; and
- Decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

We can expand our reach through education and research, that is our intersection with SDGS.

With the GFI we saw an expansion (started with research to feed the world) and students pushed back and said how can we do that if we are hungry here. This led to the launch of our basic needs and food recovery program.

How would the GFI example relate to CNI?

It has started with the Pillars updating their goals which has led to a shift in proposals that will result in a shift in the types of projects funded. CNI has focused narrowly on emissions. If you want to take on the goal of being more inclusive and thinking about the process, what do we do differently, and how do we achieve that?

STARS? - are they already focused on these areas? How do we currently report on this? We may need to rewrite or propose new mechanisms for how we measure and report on sustainability.

In STARS there is a whole section on diversity equity and inclusion, wages, etc. There are a number of places STARS has pushed us and they are transparent in how they rank campuses. They also provide a mechanism for collecting feedback.

Integration could happen by developing a series of different decision making trees, and implementation procedures to help us apply concepts of environmental justice to the projects we are already working on. In integrating EJ, we don't necessarily have to take on new issues as separate stand alone, we could approach this by applying an EJ lens to our core work.

**Next Steps/Action Items (12:10 – 12:20):**

**Open Items (12:20 – 12:30):**