

## Chancellor's Sustainability Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 23rd, 3:00-4:30 in Cheadle 5123

### Attendance

**Voting Members:** Nicholas Frey, Alex Regan, Michael Fanelli, Pam Lombardo, Karly Miller, Brit Ortiz, Eric Matthys, David Auston, Mark Brzezinski, Bruce Tiffney

**Other:** Mo Lovegreen, Matt O'Carroll, Ken Hiltner, Amorette Getty, Katie Maynard, Andrew Riley, bill Shelor

**Absent voting members:** Roland Geyer, Constance Penley, Igor Mezic, Mel Manalis, Denise Stephens

### 3:05-3:10 Announcements:

- a) The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Central Coast Sustainability Summit will take place November 13<sup>th</sup>
- b) TGIF is currently accepting grant applications for the 2014/2015 funding cycle
- c) In January we will be announcing a call for graduate student researches that will be hired for 20/week in summer.
- d) In the past, the New Leaf Program granted \$1000 to incorporate sustainability into a class's curriculum, starting this year we will be offering \$2000. The call for new leaf grant applications will be announced in January.
- e) Ken Hiltner will be giving a talk on the Anthropocene next week titled "Should we welcome the Anthropocene?"
- f) David Auston will be giving a talk on achieving carbon Neutrality on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM in ESB 1001

### 3:10-3:15 Minutes:

- a) Review meeting min. from July and August (Bruce) unanimously approved

### 3:15-3:30 Updates:

- a) Global climate Leadership summit on research (David Auston)
  - Two weeks ago David Auston held a summit on research/collaborations needed to reach the 2025 carbon neutrality goal. All 10 campuses and 3 national labs were represented at the summit. The top challenges that were identified were:
    - What to do about natural gas
      - This is especially critical for campuses that have made major investments in cogeneration and are locked into natural gas for the next 20 or 30 years. One idea that was presented was to enlist a lot of cows and burn methane instead. A lot of work is being done on this in Europe but much more research still needs to be done. Methane has a lot of impurities that would need to be scrubbed clean before it could go into the gas pipelines. We would also need altered regulations on putting biogas into natural gas pipelines for this to be feasible.
    - Challenge number 2: procuring carbon neutral electricity
      - Solar is a great solution. Solar prices have actually dropped significantly and are competitive without subsidies. The UC system signed a PPA to generate 80

megawatts of solar electricity in Fresno County. UCOP is working on changing legislation to assist campuses that aren't currently on direct access.

- Lawrence Livermore lab has a large area of land that was used to test weapons and they suggested that the site could be used as a test site for solar and wind. David Auston plans to make visit to the sight to see if it would be feasible for UCSB.

This workshop left David Auston with the sense that carbon neutrality could be feasible for our campus and that we could become a leader.

- We have no cogeneration plant and a mild climate
- They believe we can use solar to meet our electricity demand and also use electricity for heating.
- The two main caveats --- we don't have good means of storage of generated electricity or *direct access*, meaning we cannot buy electricity on the wholesale market. A movement is being led by UCOP to propose legislation that will allow UCSB to have *direct access*.

#### **Discussion:**

Methane from sewage would be considered renewable and we would get credit for the methane captured. The County is planning to build a facility that captures methane. One issue with bio-methane is the standards for injecting bio-methane into existing gas lines is very high and those standards would need to be relaxed.

Jordan is working on proposal to put another 4 megawatts of solar on our campus.

#### b) Office Waste reducing program (Matt O'Carroll)

We received a TGIF grant last year for the purchase of 5000 recycling bins and we tried to introduce them to private offices and to prioritize recycling. Custodians were servicing trash once a week and offices were responsible for recycling; we switched this to incentive recycling. The program rolled out in early September with information about the program sent out in August. There were a-sufficient number of complaints about this program so we have gone back to just servicing office trash.

The campus can introduce the best technology, but success ultimately comes down to behavioral changes. Starting tomorrow FM staff ~~we~~ are going to walk every Friday from 4:00 -8:00 AM to determine where waste and recycling infrastructure needs to be improved, office by office. Subsequently we will provide all users with detailed information about recycling. It really boils down to that fact that we need everyone's help to achieve our goals.

#### c) Sustainability Structure for 14/15 (Mo Lovegreen)

We have two new subcommittees, one for coordinating system wide initiatives and one on the global food initiative. We also have one new change agent team on climate adaptation. The Sustainability Structure model will be sent out to everyone.

#### **3:30-4:10 Presentations/Discussion:**

#### a) 2014/2014 Faculty Sustainability Champion (Ken Hiltner)

The Environmental humanities represent a rapidly evolving field within the University; Ken will be working to expand the Literature and the Environment Center and to bring attention and awareness to the work of the environmental humanities. A newly developed website offers access to campus resources including environmental humanities events on campus and a summation of all environmental Humanities classes offered. We have over 120 environmental humanities undergraduate classes and 60

+ graduate classes. The main idea behind the work is to introduce people to the environmental humanities through the website, workshops, talks, and a conference.

With regards to presidential initiatives there is effort to share and develop curriculum and it would be great for Ken to touch base with the individuals involved.

b) 2013/2014 Accomplishments/ Chancellor's Annual Reports (Katie, Matt, Mo, and Jewel)

Water:

- Reduced water usage 21%; we really hit hard with education and outreach.

Waste:

- Increased waste diversion percentage by 2%. We have picked a lot of low hanging fruit and now are looking at source reduction and procurement. We will be implementing a per capita metric to look at waste on our campus.
- Established composting program for clippings.
- Reduced plastic bottle sales 54%

Energy:

- Electricity use reduced 36% per square foot over the last ten years.
- Reduced natural gas 46% over last ten years.
- The lot 22 solar project is almost complete and if you are interested there is a tour next Wednesday, October 29th at 1:00 PM
- The smart metering program is 60% completed

LEED:

- We have 2 million GSF of LEED certified buildings on our campus.

Transportation

- Mode split survey results: faculty and staff did 2% worse in the use of Single Occupancy vehicles and students did 2% better than last year.

Food:

- RDS: We had a slight reduction in the purchase of sustainable food but this wasn't significant
- We did see a reduction in sustainable food purchased by the UCEN, but we think this is because retail is more price sensitive.
- UC global food initiative: We have had a tremendous amount of participation across campus, 23 departments and 40 individuals came to our first meeting on the food initiative.
- There are 23 committees within the food initiative of which 5 are chaired by UCSB.
- Last year the campus farmers market was launched, and organizers are working on adding a food stamps program this year.
- Through the Swipes for us program 150 swipes were donated last year
- We selected undergraduate fellows for the UC food initiative, one will be working on a survey to access food security and other two will be working with the PEPP group.

Curriculum:

- Launched interdepartmental PHD emphasis on environment and society.
- Piloted our Sustainability literacy test this week

**4:10-4:20 Action Items:**

- a) Chancellor's Annual Report (Bruce)

It was agreed that we would give everyone another week to provide suggestions/edits to jewel. We will do an electronic vote once the edits get incorporated.

**4:20-4:30 Committee Updates:**

a) Alternative Energy – David Austin ----. Jordan is working on power purchase agreement but hasn't yet been approved.

b) Built Environment – Marc Fisher, Jordan Sager, & Amorette Getty --- We are focusing our efforts on fume hoods.

c) Communications – Jewel Snavelly

d) Waste –Matt O'Carroll

e) Water – Matt O'Carroll

f) Transportation – Mo Lovegreen

g) ECOalition - Thomas Sims ---- ECOalition is having its first council meeting on Wednesday, the agenda will focus on coalition building since we haven't been asked to endorse anything yet this year. We had two new groups join and we also updated the list of all environmental organizations on campus.

h) Academic working group – Bruce Tiffney & Katie Maynard

We have decided to take on the GE again. We got some interesting data that indicate that 93% of incoming freshman take an environmental or sustainability class. The numbers are lower for transfer students.