



**PRESIDENT'S
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**

Minutes

08/29/19, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Lory Student Center – Room 308

In attendance:

Joyce McConnell – CSU President
Lynn Johnson – Vice President for University Operations
Tony Rappe – College of Natural Sciences
Doug Max – Senior Athletic Director for Facilities Management
Bill Timpson - College of Health and Human Sciences
Stacey Baumgarn – Classified Personnel Council
Julie Kallenberger - Colorado Water Center
Monica Latham – CSU Libraries
Sara Campbell – CSUF
Debra Horensky – Office of the Vice President for Research
Mary Liang – Housing and Dining Services
Sara VanHatten – SSC
Aleta Weller – School of Global and Environmental Sustainability
Olive Bruce – SCC School of Global and Environmental Sustainability
Colleen Duncan – CVMBS
Andrew Warnock – College of Natural Sciences Education and Outreach
Maggie Walsh- Campus Operations and Engagement
Tiffany Glover – Transportation Services
Aaron Fodge - Parking and Transportation Services
Jake Drenth – Surplus Property
Stephanie Clemons – Faculty Council
Tim Brennon - Office of the Vice President for Diversity
Mary Guiden – External Relations
Farrah Bustamonte – Procurement
Anthony Appleton - Office of the Vice President for Research
Brian Dunbar – Institute for the Built Environment/CHHS
Tom Satterly – FM
Gina McCrackin – ASCU
Jessica Davis – College of Agricultural Science
Dan McGrath – Warner College of Natural Resources
Danielle Backman – PSC Intern
Sheela Backen – Integrated Solid Waste
Carol Dollard – Facilities Management, Co-Chair of PSC
Tonie Miyamoto – Division of Student Affairs, Co-Chair of PSC
Tamara Martin – PSC Admin Support

Welcome and Introductions

Presentation

a. Previous Year in Review:

- CSU can celebrate many achievements including:
 - CSU celebrated 10 years of solar arrays.
 - City of Fort Collins, Xcel and Platte River Power Authority announce plans for 100% Renewable Electricity by 2030.
 - Being named #1 Bike Friendly College and Town by Great Value Colleges
 - Being named best workplace for Commuters by Center for Urban Transportation Research
 - A Platinum Bicycle Friendly University by the League of American Bicyclists
 - “Coolest Schools” list in Sierra Magazine
 - number 1 Greenest Colleges by BestColleges.com
 - #1 Top Performing Institution for Sustainability by The Chronicle of Higher Education
 - Being named a Green Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education
 - Being named as a Top Green College by the Princeton Review
 - Achieving Platinum Rating from the STARS program.
 - LEED Silver Certification of the Michael Smith Natural Resources Building
 - LEED Gold Certifications of the Biology Building and Nancy Richardson Design Center
 - LEED Platinum Certification of the Chemistry Research Building
 - Homeward Alliance Donated and Distributed 36,000 pounds during 2019 move out.
 - 3 Million pounds of food waste was composted. Program raises \$1,500 per year and this is the 3rd year.
 - Living Wage Initiative – Accomplished by Lynn Johnson, Vice President for Operations and Diana Prieto, Associate Vice President for Human Capital.

b. Goals for 2019-2020

1. Operational Learning Outcomes
2. Pilot Air Travel Offset Program
3. High Performance Buildings
4. Expand Composting Program
5. Increase Positive Sustainable Investments
6. Improve and Assess Employee and Student Engagement
7. 3rd Repeat of Platinum STARS

c. STARS Update:

- Ratings- 952 Institutions use STARS. Currently 329 have active ratings:
2% Platinum | 38% Gold | 44% Silver | 13% bronze | 4% Reporter
- CSU places in the Platinum category along with few other institutions including Stanford University
- There are 1,000+ Data Points in 4 Sectors:
1. Academics 2. Engagement 3. Operations 4. Planning & Administration
- CSU STARS History
 - 2011 – 1.0 Report | GOLD Rating
 - 2014 – 1.2 Report | GOLD Rating
 - 2015 – 2.0 Report | PLATINUM Rating (and FIRST to achieve this rating)
 - 2017 – 2.1 Report | PLATINUM Rating (only institution to receive Platinum twice)
 - 2020 – 2.1 Report | Goal- PLATINUM Rating (for the 3rd time)
85+ Points to receive Platinum Rating
- CSU STARS Highlights
 - 25% of courses are related to sustainability
 - Sustainability majors and minors in all 8 colleges + interdisciplinary minors in SoGES
 - 79% of all departments engages in sustainability research
 - Student sustainability programs very strong
 - Innovative food insecurity programs

- Strong on diversity and inclusion credits
- AREAS OF FOCUS:
 1. Learning Outcomes Approved
 2. Financial Transparency Report
 3. Committee on Investor Responsibility
- STARS Timeline:
 - October 2019 - Submission done
 - November 2019 - Third Party review complete
 - December 2019 - Submit to AASHE
 - February 1, 2020 - Rating Confirmed

Discussion with President McConnell

President Joyce McConnell started a discussion with the commission and posed the question, “What do you need from me to support this Commission?”

Answers to this question, noted the fact that unlike other institutions that have a Sustainability Office, CSU operates differently, with only this commission. This has been positive and working so far, but also has some draw backs including, being volunteer based.

Lynn Johnson indicated that the group collaboration would be lost if the commission was moved to a Sustainability Office. She added that benefit of the commission was the leadership, but questioned how to retain leadership and transition?

Tonie Miyamoto suggested a SWAT analysis might help this decision. She feels that the collaboration aspect is a strength, but the time commitment for volunteers is a threat.

Brian Dunbar asked if there is any available funding on campus to offer to leadership?

Lynn Johnson clarified if he was referring to Supplemental Pay. She also shared the idea that it could be considered part of a position. That leaders can work in different departments, but their sustainability leadership becomes a part of their funding in their role.

Tim Brennon spoke directly to the question President McConnell asked by stating that one way she can support the commission is to have the President’s leadership to help push for these initiatives on campus. For example, at ASU, the President pushed for this in Curriculum and it made a difference.

Aaron Fodge would like to see CSU embrace sustainability into the culture with the President’s support. This might include the idea that there are costs associated with this. The idea of fiscal responsibility vs sustainability is often used as a reason not to make decisions.

Tonie added that a shift in thinking about investments might address this. Building cost more upfront, but if buildings can be looked as an investment over time it can be argued the costs are much less if built sustainably.

Lynn added that the Air Travel Proposal is going to be asking to tax ourselves for the flights we take. A message from the President of support would be appreciated as many will not be happy, but in order for this to be a successful endeavor, we will need support.

Aleta Weller pointed out that in thinking about this group as an office vs. a commission, the group would lose the diversity of representatives from all areas across campus that we have now if it is changed to an office.

President McConnell asked about ways the commission can create a new type of infrastructure. Recognizing that STARS takes a lot of time. Maybe instead of calling it an office, the group can have someone in charge to lead the team, as one option. This might include 2-3 people in key areas that make up a core team. The larger body can work to complete goals. She shared that she feels collectives are great for creating an inclusive tone, but the drawback is that there is not core of accountability and decision making. The core needs to be empowered to make a budget request with the values and goals. She agrees with the group that institution support is important.

Oliva Bruce added that students don’t know where to go for opportunities. Something centralized and streamlined would be beneficial. Having a center is interesting, but without losing PSC.

Tony Rappe reminded the group that in the past, funding was an issue. PSC was created as a grassroots initiative. People wanted to see it done, so they made it happen. However, no one was opposed to funding.

President McConnell shared her background as a Sustainable Law Professor in West Virginia and some of the principals that were in place back when she first began and how they grew and became successful over time. She noted that there is a natural evolution for change. Grassroots does a lot of work for change, but at some point it gets so big and solid, it needs new leadership and/or structure.

President McConnell clarified that a weak piece for PSC is in curriculum and if so, she asked “what do we need to do to improve this?” She sought to understand if this is something we can measure and what is STARS looking for?

Tonie answered that the way this is measured is several way including body counts, course counts and through a sustainable learning assessment.

President McConnell added that she would be happy to be a spokesperson for curriculum. She is interested to know what attempts have been made previously, what conversations have been had with the faculty council and what the group feels is a good strategy needed to move forward to make this successful. Asked the commission to think it over.

Group Photo Outside (10 minutes)

Continued Discussion

Lynn – asked Carol and Tonie if they had any ideas about creating something between an Office and this current model? *For the group, any thoughts on this topic should be sent to Carol and Tonie.

Aaron - Thinks possibly a data analyst position would be useful at an Institution level.

Aleta – regarding the education piece, adding sustainability course AUCC might be useful. Can't go over 120 credits for Sustainable Learning Outcomes.

Stephanie – maybe instead of creating new courses, we could embed sustainability in all courses.

Shelby – in working with faculty council, we can see what they want to pursue. Adding learning objectives to be embedded in classes, if president approves, can be simple and done quickly.

Tony – shared the biggest issue is numbers. Meaning the number of students in a course. We need the big AUCC courses for bigger outcomes.

Stephanie – Asked if there is any way to bring the WELL Building Standard into the discussion?

Member Updates

Aleta – Society of Environmental Journalists will be meeting at CSU in October. Think of ways to engage students.

Sara – Foundation has a new President, Cheri O'Neill. Foundation is aware of STARS report.

Brain – AASHE: October 27-30 in Spokane. Tonie and Stacey Presenting. Jake and Mary Attending.

Next Meeting: September 16, 2019

NOTE: September Meeting will be back at WCNR, room will be confirmed

End 2:30