



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

Minutes  
May 16, 2021, 1:00-2:30 pm  
**Virtual Meeting**

1. Introductions – 5 minutes
  - a. Tonie Miyamoto, Carol Dollard, Mary Liang, Mark Paquette, Monica Latham, Alicia Armentrout, Grace Wright, Greg Lewis, Anthony Appleton, Tim Brennan, Farrah Bustamante, Mark Gokavi, Sybil Sharvelle, Joe von Fischer, Andrew Warnock, Aleta Weller, Rodolfo Valdes Vasquez, Aaron Fodge, Colleen Duncan, Bryn Hall, Brian Dunbar
  - b. Welcome Joe von Fischer! Joe is stepping in to represent College of Natural Sciences for the PSC.
  
2. Earth Month Debrief and Notes for Next Year – 20 min
  - a. This is our first time doing a 5-week Earth Month Program and themed weeks, alongside many new events, so we want to allow members the space to debrief about how Earth Month went and provide input for next year.
  - b. Attendance to many events was low, which may have been due to issues with transportation for events that were held off campus, student awareness that events were happening, or with attendance for in-person events still impacted by COVID. This is a busy time of year for students, faculty and staff and stress levels felt higher this year, which likely contributed to low attendance as well.
  - c. To consider for next year: centralizing events on campus, hosting one event each day rather than multiple, increasing awareness about events, virtual tour options, and focusing more on Earth Day/Earth Week rather than a whole month. Some discussion around doing workshops at LSC during the Earth Day Festival to centralize events.
  - d. Looking for more footage of sustainability initiatives at CSU, such as ARDEC solar field with sheep pasture, ARDEC Growing Food Security produce, EV charger installations, and Bike to Work Day. If you have any sustainability programs this summer that provide visual footage, particularly field research or laboratory footage, please let Tonie know.
  - e. Recent sustainability videos:
    - i. <https://youtu.be/9dZ7XFHm3e4>
    - ii. Students & Sustainability: [https://youtu.be/34BuxGnH\\_UM](https://youtu.be/34BuxGnH_UM)
  
3. Move Out Donation Program debrief – 10 min
  - a. Found that this year people were less aware of program and students threw away more material. Also some challenges with parking and two of the larger organizations, IARC and Goodwill, were not able to come out. The four participating groups (Salvation Army, St. Francis, ChairTableHome, and Centennial BOCES) are likely to come back and Salvation Army would like to have a larger presence next year.
  - b. High volume of materials with fewer donation stations created dumpster challenges this year; however, we were able to fill 4 large trucks and 1 small bus with diverted materials.
  - c. Looking to next year, we would like to reach out to more organizations that would like to partner with HDS for the program and find ways to communicate more effectively with students about the program and what to donate versus throw away. Please let us know if you are aware of any organizations that might be interested and able to participate!

- d. HDS does plan to educate incoming students during Ram Orientation about items to bring on campus, items to avoid, as well as continued communication about what items can be recycled or donated and information about the event.
4. Survey Update (Aleta & Mary) – 10 min
    - a. The Academics & Research Subcommittee is pursuing a survey to get a baseline understanding of where sustainability is integrated into courses across departments to pursue goals in the Courageous Strategic Transformation and as a tool for STARS data collection.
    - b. The survey is still in the initial stages, and the timeline was looking like fall but we are hoping for a pilot period this summer. Open-ended questions will be included to allow faculty members more space to discuss sustainability within their courses.
    - c. The results of this survey will inform work on CST goals, the PSC/SoGES Curriculum Innovation Grants, and be a tool for STARS data collection. It is important for CST goals to see where students are being exposed to sustainability, the depth of that exposure, and which courses are accessible to students regardless of department affiliation. Our BIG goal is that all students at CSU will learn about sustainability in the classroom and have an opportunity to apply that knowledge in a service learning/volunteering/field experience outside the classroom.
    - d. AASHE is continuing to raise the bar for Academics in STARS, the results of this survey could be used to communicate with AASHE about what changes can be made to capture the depth of sustainability content in courses.
    - e. Joe: Sustainability Disciplinary Degree Coordination Group is looking to work on what sustainability looks like for different programs on campus, to ensure relevancy to unique fields as well as consistent understanding of sustainability. We agreed that it makes sense to connect these two efforts and share information/resources.
  5. STARS 2.2 Progress and Call for Highlights to Share – 25 min
    - a. We opened our STARS 2.2 report in January and it typically takes about 9 months to complete, with over 1,000 data points to capture. We are experiencing a lot of challenges due to pandemic impacts, with several credits changing significantly under pandemic years. We are looking for assistance with the following credits:
      - i. *AC1-Academic Courses*: please share any sustainability-focused courses you may know of in your department. STARS requires at least one course in each academic program.
      - ii. *EN13-Community Service*: please share any courses or experiences outside the classroom with service-learning components that occurred this year. Any community service events, or other programs that include service learning or volunteering count. The criteria are fairly open this year, including online service work. If you have a program, please provide the following: number of students participating, total hours for all students, name of program, and a brief description (course number for service learning), and contact information for a program coordinator/representative.
      - iii. *OP15-Campus Fleet*: Some fleet vehicles are underutilized on campus, so we ask that if you are able, advocate within your department about removing unused and underutilized vehicles, as well as for new fleet purchases to be electric/hybrid vehicles. This aligns with goals for the STARS report and university sustainability goals. We recognize that departments are working under a budget and are looking at upfront price constraints, so advocating for the long-term efficiency and cost savings may be useful.
    - b. Another area we are struggling with is living wage for employees. The cost of living in Fort Collins is outpacing salary increases. STARS looks at what percentage of CSU employees make a living wage based on the MIT living wage calculator for this area, counting 2 working adults and 2 children in one household.
    - c. With some of the big credits now underway, the STARS team will likely reach out with more asks. Let us know of any cool projects regardless of where they may fit in the STARS report. Innovation & Leadership

credits can include projects or initiatives that may not fit elsewhere (SPUR campus, CSU's COVID response, etc.)

6. Member updates – 20 min

- a. Carol: After being postponed by COVID for two years, the 2022 Climate Action Plan is finalized and posted online. The next version will be done in another 2 years. This version of the CAP now codifies 2040 carbon neutral goal and is organized a bit differently from previous versions.
  - i. The CAP can be found here: [www.fm.colostate.edu/reports](http://www.fm.colostate.edu/reports)
- b. Carol: The VPUO search team is sending pros/cons to President McConnell, hoping for a candidate that will support sustainability goals.
- c. Aleta: Climate Leadership Summit for High Schools went well with about 200 students attending, we had to stop accepting registrations due to space. During the Summit there were breakout sessions with all kinds of climate focuses, including agriculture, air quality, and justice. Next year we are looking to continue the event and possibly create even bigger capacity.
  - i. Source story: <https://source.colostate.edu/students-challenged-to-make-a-difference-at-climate-leadership-summit-hosted-by-csu-and-psd/>
- d. Rodolfo: A possible Innovation & Leadership credit for STARS is the faculty council on Libraries looking to create more affordable options for textbooks such as faculty options for online books. Also, the CAP can be tricky to locate – creating an easier to find spot on [green.colostate.edu](http://green.colostate.edu) may be nice.
- e. Brian Dunbar: It was great to have the PSC Milestones and Recognition event again, the Alumni Center was a great space. The open house at SoGES was another great event during Earth Month. The recent Fashion Show with Apparel & Merchandising students showed sustainability integration across campus. Many students mentioned sustainability as a large factor in their designs and aspirations with their work.
  - i. Source story: <https://chhs.source.colostate.edu/three-students-honored-for-their-fashion-collections-during-all-in-bloom-show/>
- f. Tonie: Our June meeting is cancelled as it falls on Juneteenth. We are planning to meet in July but please let us know any agenda items to determine if we will keep it. As a reminder, the Listserv is available for announcements between meetings as well. The STARS team will likely be looking for continued help. Many summer events are back this summer – great conference season, Mountain Campus back in full swing, Ram Orientation in person again.
  - i. FC Juneteenth Celebration: [https://www.nocovolunteers.org/agency/detail/?agency\\_id=136257](https://www.nocovolunteers.org/agency/detail/?agency_id=136257)