USC Sustainability Spring Steering Committee Meeting
April 23, 2019 12:00pm - 1:30pm

Meeting notes recorded by Farris Sukkar


Meeting Agenda
- Provost mini-retreat, highlight take-away
  - Retreat outcome was more positive than people think
  - Presented “Three Asks”
  - (Ellen) Facilities and ops will be held separately from academics moving forward with planning
    - Rebecca: We need to think critically about two separate paths for these verticals, but also take into account how facilities/operations and research/education will come together at the top and what umbrella committee will oversee this effort (SSC could be that committee).

- Update on Sustainability 2028 Planning Lunch & Learn (Ellen)
  - Launched 2028 Planning Process
  - President is very focused on sustainability and making sure students support this process
  - 40+ people attended, driven by 4 SMEs (Energy, Waste, Transportation, Water) and discussed the regulatory environment and what is being done to move us forward
  - Opened up room for QA with faculty and students
  - Feedback from students was very positive
  - Please take the Sustainability 2028 Planning Survey
  - Rebecca: loved the L+L, thought it was really useful. Suggestion for next one - rotate presentations and include faculty in the discussion. Faculty can discuss their research, and students can present what they are working on and would like feedback from faculty.
  - Another suggestion is to organize the Lunch and Learns based on certain topics. For example, there can be one on water, where faculty, students, and operations discuss what is being worked on.
  - Antonio: Please tell the faculty in advance what questions we are looking for answers, then they can find the right experts to discuss this.
  - Karen: In the past, a task force subcommittee was created to pair up operations and faculty specialists to help operations and students with their research and interests but doesn’t occur anymore.
  - Antonio: The launching of the Center’s Grand Challenges related to sustainability may be a good avenue for this sort of event to occur but probably not ready to go this fall.
  - Karla: There are a group of 12 faculty in Dornsife who are looking at mostly undergraduate focused training, research based training, and building out public private partnerships to provide opportunities for students. This team will provide info to the SSC for feedback in a couple of weeks.
• Antonio: A webpage is being put together consisting of an inventory of research being performed by faculty - will be ready by the end of summer.
• Paul: There are two different strands of ideas to pursue regarding living lab
  o One: 2028 plan development process can use faculty, staff and students to connect around themes
  o Two: As part of the 2028 Plan, include a strategy specifying the living lab as a vehicle of achieving these goals. This approach will flow down to incentivize students and academics to work together on research.

- Discussion about new president’s position on sustainability and how it may change 2028 Sustainability planning (Ellen)
  • At request of the CFO, in May/June the Office of Sustainability is creating a USC sustainability briefing document for new President, will consist of the following (SSC and SMEs will be able to provide feedback on doc – no surprises!)
    o 1: Overview of 2020 Plan - where we’re at with achieving Goals
    o 2: High-level approach to 2028 planning process, including 2030 proposal ideas
    o 3: sustainability stakeholder feedback gathered from 2028 planning tools - survey, roundtables, focus groups, L+Ls, SSC, Ac Sen, 2030 Plan, student groups etc
  • USG student leaders met with the President Elect and she asked what students want to see on campus regarding sustainability. She asked them to provide her with suggestions for “sustainability low-hanging fruit”
  • OoS will meet with USG Pres this Friday to discuss President’s ask
  • New president has indicated that she wants a Zero Waste Inauguration
  • Adam Rosen’s office is considering how to push for some sustainable tailgating (limited)
  • Tony: Transpo asked to look into EV for new President (probably a TSLA)
  • 10-year capital plan now includes placeholder (amount TBD) for sustainability projects – specific projects to be determined at later time
  • Antonio: provide President briefing with info pertaining to LA’s sustainability goals
  • Frame briefing doc around Plan and state sustainability mandates
  • Office of Sustainability will engage consultant - with FMS – in May/June to help develop 2028 planning. Scope will be:
    o Make sure USC is aligned with the city, county and state
    o Help evaluate the right project mix that will to do the move to move needle
  • Goal is that 2028 planning process happens over next 6 – 18 months, while 2020 Plan is wrapping up. OoS submits first draft of 2028 Plan proposal to Cabinet by Dec 31, 2019. The 2028 Plan launches Jan 2021.

- 2020 Plan updates from SMEs
  • None offered
  • Ellen: please provide me with possible “sustainability low hanging fruit” suggestion by EOD Thursday to add to list for USG President meeting on Friday
  • Tony + Shawn: currently 120 electric chargers on campus, looking into adding solar EV charging on parking structure roofs (approx $60k/each).
  • Paul Adler: what about EV fleet?
  • Stacy: purchasing has had recent conversations about including sustainability requirements when making purchases, including possibly fleet?
- FMS is meeting with LADWP to discuss technical aspects of solar on Galen Center

- **Looking ahead**
  - Next SSC mtg in July or August – invite President?
  - More frequent meetings starting in fall to dig into 2028 planning. Work will be done primarily through topic-specific SME sub-committees.