

USC SSC MEETING: SPRING SEMESTER

March 4, 2021, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Meeting Notes

Recorded by Elias Platte-Bermeo

Meeting Attendees (list not comprehensive)

Ellen Dux, Mark Ewalt, Farris Sukkar, Elias Platte-Bermeo, Joshua Sierra, David Donovan, Gina Whisenant, Karen Reed, Zelinda Welch, Nichelle Huizar, Peniel Park, Jill Sohm, Jerome Jontry, David Gerber, Jackson Fitzgerald, Nick Hudson, Miguel Gonzalez, Gloria Gonzalez, Pix Verendia, Dan Mazmanian, Nikita Lalwani, Sophia Lee, Carol Fern, Alexis Areias, Lucy Warren, Evan Davis, Paul Adler

Agenda

See accompanying PowerPoint presentation

1. Welcome + Introductions

2. SME FY21 Sustainability Projects Updates + Discussion

- a. Office of Sustainability - Elias Platte-Bermeo
 - i. OoS is developing a 2015-2020 USC Sustainability Summary Report that outlines achievement of the goals set forth in the 2020 Plan. This will be completed and shared broadly, including to the SSC, later this month.
 - ii. OoS is in the early stages of partnering with USC Communications and USC IT to develop a new, high-profile website that will centralize information on sustainability from across the university. The site will serve as the gateway to sustainability information across different teams, and will still serve the key function of being a tool through which we can regularly report on sustainability progress.
 - iii. OoS is committed to spotlighting FY21 sustainability initiatives through social media and dedicated space on the Daily Trojan website homepage. Past ads have highlighted the STARS project and zero-waste pilot. SMEs should continue to surface information on sustainability projects to Elias so OoS can help get the word out.
- b. USC Transportation - David Donovan
 - i. HSC Valley Parking Lot (VPL) EV charging stations
 1. 99 new ports will be installed by May 31 and come online by Aug/Sept '21. Campus EV charging station inventory will

increase to 226 Level II ports across both campuses, plus additional 2 Level III ports at UPC.

2. This project will bring a ~\$230k rebate from LADWP.

ii. FPM Electrical Capacity Survey

1. Determined locations at UPC where additional EV charging stations could be added to existing structures.

2. Potential +143 ports in 3 locations (USC Shrine, Figueroa Street, Flower Street Structures), at a cost of ~\$2M.

iii. Potential LA Metro Partnership

1. Applying to partner with LA Metro on a research study to get people out of their SOV's (Single Occupancy Vehicles) post-COVID.

2. If approved to join study, USC would receive grant money to incentivize employees to use public transportation.

iv. Mandatory AQMD Survey Recently Completed

1. Originally due June 2, 2020 – three separate 90-day extensions granted due to COVID. Results will count for both 2020 and 2021.

2. USC's Average Vehicle Ridership (AVR) is 4.60 (AQMD target: 1.50), but this statistic has limited value due to COVID impacts. It will always be considered an anomaly.

c. FPM Waste - Gina Whisenant

i. Exterior bin replacement project for UPC and HSC will be completed in increments through FY23.

ii. Mini pilot programs at USC Village and HSC Pappas Quad in Fall 2020 were used to measure bin success and test out signage and bin placement. 4 bins were installed at USC Village and 4 bins were installed at HSC's Pappas Quad (each campus with 2 pour stations).

iii. FPM conducted audits on bin contamination, fullness, and most commonly disposed of items. Revised signage will be based on audit results.

iv. Audits indicated that people will recycle and compost when provided correct tools. Composting and Recycling slots had an overall 90% clean rate, but landfill bins still had too much divertable waste.

v. FPM's goal is to get more multi-stream bins into high-traffic areas before students return to campus.

d. FPM Water - Karen Reed

- i. Water metering
 - 1. Phase 1 completed installations of water sub-meters at 14 buildings. Phase 2 currently in progress -- 27 additional locations should be completed by June.
- ii. Low flow fixture replacements
 - 1. Approx. 1650 total low flow touchless faucets to be installed in non-housing buildings at UPC/HSC
 - 2. 1508 faucets have already been installed across 112 buildings.
- iii. Landscaping
 - 1. Continuing to install native landscaping. There is now a plot of shade-loving native plants on the north side of Birnkrant.
- iv. Stormwater
 - 1. New construction projects continue to install stormwater infiltration systems to recharge the groundwater aquifer.
- e. USC Procurement - Peniel Park
 - i. In FY21, Procurement has largely been focused on COVID response and restart programs.
 - ii. Procurement recently ramped up education for how to buy green at USC through a new website with information on sustainable purchasing through USC's preferred suppliers. They will continue to build on this to provide more green purchasing options and educate USC purchasers.
 - iii. Currently gathering tons of information for the AASHE STARS report which will help set a baseline for future USC Procurement goals.
- f. AASHE STARS / Experiential Learning - Farris Sukkar
 - i. OoS has completed dozens of info sessions with 70+ stakeholders who own data for USC's first STARS submission. OoS is well underway with data collection and should submit the full report in June.
 - ii. OoS is partnering with FPM and the Dornsife Spatial Sciences Institute to create a campus sustainability map that visually communicates USC sustainability information.
 - iii. OoS has partnered with FPM and Viterbi to develop a research fellowship course in which students conduct a campus tree inventory and assess how USC's trees impact air quality, carbon storage, and energy savings.
- g. Auxiliary Service - Nichelle Huizar

- i. Single Use Plastic Elimination: focusing on to-go packaging, plastic beverage bottles & assessment for a reusable plan.
 - ii. Waste Stream Management: recycling and composting across all units (front of house/back of house), and engagement and education.
 - iii. Green Purchasing Practices/Supply Chain review: upstream commodities, GHG commuting inventory.
 - iv. Green Certifications: have completed or are pursuing certifications at USC Dining, USC Hotel, and retail locations.
 - v. Eco-Mondays Programming in Residential Dining: healthy eating engagement to reduce post-consumer food waste.
 - vi. Infrastructure Updates & Tracking: fixtures, LED lighting, energy & water conservation, etc.
- h. ENST Sustainability Curricula Development - Jill Sohm
 - i. Roughly a year ago, a pilot program was proposed to infuse sustainability content into courses across campus. The plan was to ask for applications from faculty, pair chosen faculty with experts in sustainability who could help them develop course materials, then give them a monetary award for participating in the program.
 - ii. The program started in Dornsife with 6 total projects (classes), some of which began rolling this out this semester in departments like Psychology, Sociology, Chemistry, American Studies, and East Asian Studies.
 - iii. The hope is that this pilot will lead to a larger program that aims to incorporate sustainability into more programs across campus.
- i. Capital Construction Development - Jerome Jontry
 - i. Ginsburg Hall is still on track to be USC's first LEED platinum development.
- j. FPM Energy - Zelinda Welch
 - i. LED Lighting
 - 1. LED retrofits in 20 buildings across campus with savings of 5.5M kWh/yr
 - ii. Energy Audits/Retrocommissioning (RCx)
 - 1. Selected 6 buildings for complete RCx and Energy/Water Audits, including CAR, CEN, FMT, PSO, TRH/TRE, and UPX. Focus on operational improvements and long-term investments.
 - iii. Benchmarking

1. 150 buildings will be benchmarked in Energy Star's Portfolio Manager, including water, natural gas, and electricity data. Participated in the Higher Education Benchmarking Initiative (HEBI) pilot project.
- iv. Pony Chiller
 1. Galen Center is in the process of installing a pony chiller. This type of chiller more efficiently supplies cooling during low loads, which saves electricity. Savings projected at 100,000 kWh/ yr.
- v. GHG Emissions Inventory Survey
 1. Goal for 2020 was a 20% reduction in Scope 1+2 emissions.
 2. In the FY20 GHG Emissions Inventory, across Scope 1 + 2 emissions:
 - a. Absolute emissions dropped by 17.7%
 - b. Scope 1 absolute emissions increased by 16%
 - c. Scope 2 absolute emissions dropped by 26%
 - i. LADWP's carbon intensity dropped by 31%
 - ii. USC improved its building energy efficiency by 11.8%
 - d. Normalized (per square foot) emissions dropped by 35%**
 3. Across Total Emissions (Scopes 1, 2, and 3) we saw an absolute drop by 19.4%.
- k. Part I Q&A Session
 - i. Paul Adler asked whether we should create a template to help streamline sustainability reporting moving forward and facilitate easy-to-grasp summaries of progress toward short-term and long-term goals. Ellen noted that this is underway as we move closer to locking down goals of the 2028 Plan, and that the new website in development with USC Communications and USC IT may present an opportunity to publicize progress toward goals.
 - ii. David Gerber asked when the ENST sustainability in education program might roll out to schools like Viterbi and Architecture. Jill noted that they are working to secure funding for the second year of the program. In 2020, the announcement was made to faculty in May and projects (classes) were selected in June. They may follow a similar timeline in 2021.

3. Chief Sustainability Officer Position

- a. USC has engaged the recruiting firm Korn-Ferry to help us find the right person for the job. As of today, we have already received numerous resumes and 12 applications that stand out. These will be shared with the CSO search committee (composed of faculty, staff, and students) next week.
- b. Ideally, the CSO will be brought on board by June.

4. PWG Sustainability 2028 Plan Proposal Objectives and Elements

- a. The Presidential Working Group on Sustainability in Education, Research, and Operations (PWG) is composed of 60 faculty, staff, and students who are divided into five subcommittees. The group's objectives are to:
 - i. Facilitate coordination of sustainability activities universitywide.
 - ii. Foster sustainability education, research, operations, and engagement university-wide.
 - iii. Provide implementation timelines and metrics.
 - iv. Incorporate social impacts in steps taken to reduce the threat and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
 - v. Support a university sustainability governing and accountability council.
- b. The PWG has created a template through which it will outline 2028 Plan goals, responsible stakeholders, resources/data needed to achieve ambitions, and a roadmap for achieving these ambitions.
- c. The PWG aims to present its recommendations and framework for implementation to President Folt by the end of the semester.

5. PWG Framework & Governance Proposal

- a. The PWG envisions an approach for USC sustainability governance comprising two main groups (TENTATIVE, WIP)
 - i. The Presidential Working Group on Sustainability (PWG): this group will look at education, research, engagement, and campus operations and will focus primarily on *ideation*.
 - ii. The President's Sustainability Coordinating Council (PSCC): this group will be co-chaired by the SVP of Administration and the Provost and will be composed of high-ranking members of teams across the university. The PSCC will focus primarily on *execution*.
- b. In terms of sustainability implementation/execution, the PSCC will:
 - i. Review 2028 Plan performance metrics to inform budget and planning decisions for each following fiscal year.
 - ii. Benchmark and assess new opportunities, regulations, and technologies with PWG and campus stakeholders.

- iii. Adjust and update plan projects, targets, goals, funding, and alignment with DEI/Environmental Justice trends.
- iv. Publicize scorecard on 2028 plan elements: DEI, education, research, engagement, campus plan reduction target, adjustments to plan, etc.

6. Close/Next Steps

- a. Earth Week is the week of April 19th. The Office of Sustainability will host several virtual events similar to Earth Day 2020 in which we would love to reconvene many of the folks here today to speak broadly to the public about in-progress initiatives as well as achievement of the goals laid out in the 2020 Plan.