Sustainability Charter Committee

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

10:00 AM

**\*\*\* 3111 Seamans Center (Executive Board Room) \*\*\***

AGENDA

1. Call to order, welcome and introductions – Art Bettis and Brian Thompson, Co-chairs
2. Committee charter (attached)
3. Introduction to sustainability at the University of Iowa – Don Guckert and Liz Christiansen
   1. Background, definition of sustainability
   2. Administration, relationship to operations, academics, research and community
   3. Regents’ sustainability initiative and reporting, Vision 2020
   4. STARS
4. Role of charter committee – discussion
5. Next meeting and adjournment

MINUTES

Present: Ben Anderson, Ericka Raber, Sara Maples, Brian Thompson, Art Bettis, Wilfrid Nixon, Tyler Priest, Christine Rutledge-Russell, Kelsey Zlevor, Don Guckert, Liz Christiansen, Dave Ricketts, Marty Shafer, Scott Seagren, Belinda Marner, Deb Tiemens, Jeffrey Ding (UISG), Jonathan Montgomery (student observer)

Call to order – Art Bettis and Brian Thompson, co-chairs, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and started introductions.

Art asked the committee members to review the [charge to the Sustainability Charter Committee](http://sustainability.uiowa.edu/committee-charter-details/), which he acknowledged is broad. Brian said that after today’s presentations, which will cover the range of sustainability efforts underway on campus, members will be asked what issues the committee should focus on.

Don Guckert provided the background for growth of sustainability at the UI, starting with the launching of the [oat hull project](http://www.facilities.uiowa.edu/uem/renewable-energy/) in 2003. Soon after, the Budget Reduction Task Force recommended that the campus become much more aggressive in pursuing energy conservation efforts. This led to the formation of the Energy Conservation Advisory Committee and the development of the [Energy Conservation and Management Strategic Plan](http://www.facilities.uiowa.edu/energy/energyplanfeb2007.pdf) in 2007.

About this time, sustainability as a campus issue began to grow in prominence across the country. The organization AASHE, or [Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education](http://www.aashe.org/), became active in supporting campus efforts (the UI is a member). The UI also considered signing on to the [American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment](http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/) (ACUPCC) but after careful consideration, decided to pursue a different direction. President Mason launched a [campus commitment to sustainability](http://www.news-releases.uiowa.edu/2008/april/042208mason-sustainability.html) on Earth Day 2008, announcing the creation of the Office of Sustainability, the cluster hire for sustainable water research and other efforts.

Liz Christiansen reviewed the development of the Office of Sustainability, the [Vision 2020 Sustainability Targets](http://sustainability.uiowa.edu/vision-2020-the-university-of-iowa-s-sustainability-targets/) and gave a high level presentation of the [UI’s Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) report](https://stars.aashe.org/institutions/university-of-iowa-ia/report/2013-08-08/).

Again, Brian and Art asked the members to review the information presented, the [Office of Sustainability web site](http://sustainability.uiowa.edu/) and come with ideas on which issues to focus.

The next Sustainability Charter Committee meeting is scheduled for October 9 at 10 AM.