



UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
SUSTAINABILITY CHARTER COMMITTEE
2013 – 2014 Report

Contents

Report Memo	Page 2
Attachment A - Sustainability Committee Charter	Page 7
Attachment B – Notes from Planning Retreat, January 24 2014	Page 9
Attachment C – Letter of Support for UI Biomass Project	Page 12
Attachment D – Letter of Support for Classroom Scheduling Strategy	Page 14



Date: June, 2014

To: UI President Sally Mason, UI Provost Barry Butler, Senior Vice President Doug True, UI Staff Council President Randy Nessler, UI Faculty Senate President Alexandra Thomas, UI Student Government President Patrick Bartoski, UI Graduate and Professional Student Government President Alyssa Billmeyer

From: UI Sustainability Charter Committee

Re: 2013-2014 Committee Report

The University of Iowa Sustainability Charter Committee was established and began meeting regularly in 2013. This report provides a summary of committee action and issues from the 2013-2014 academic year.

Charter

The committee's charter, see **Attachment A**, is to

- Recommend and advise on matters pertaining to sustainability practices and formulation of University policies;
- Advise on the integration of sustainability with existing campus programs in education, research, operations, and community outreach;
- Assist in engaging the campus in an ongoing dialogue about sustainability and instilling a culture of sustainable long-range planning and forward-thinking design through their respective constituencies; and
- Advise on the development and implementation of campus sustainability action plans.

Committee Members, Liaisons and Terms

The committee's charter sets out its membership guidelines: four representatives appointed by the Faculty Senate, four representatives appointed by the Staff Council and four student representatives (two undergraduates, one graduate student, and one student from the professional colleges) appointed by the joint nominations committee of the UI Student Government and the Executive Council of Graduate & Professional Students, now the Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG).

2013-2014

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

FACULTY

	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>First Appt.</u>
1. Wilfrid Nixon, Civil & Environmental Engineering	2016	2013
2. Elmer Bettis, Earth and Environmental Sciences	2016	2013
3. Richard Priest, History	2016	2013
4. Christine Rutledge-Russell, Music	2016	2013

STUDENT

1. Jeffrey Vredenburg	2014	2013
2. Kelsey Zlevor	2014	2013
3. Ilsa DeWald	2014	2013
4. Sanjay Mittal	2014	2013

STAFF

1. Brian Thompson, Library Information Tech	2016	2013
2. Sara Maples, Centers and Institutes	2016	2013
3. Ericka Raber, Library	2015	2013
4. Benjamin Anderson, Facilities Management	2014	2013

Co-Chairs

2013-14 Staff Co-Chair: Brian Thompson

2013-14 Faculty Co-Chair: Elmer Bettis

In addition, the committee charter calls for representation from areas across the campus that are involved in and support the university sustainability efforts.

Administrative Liaisons for 2013-2014

Office of Sustainability – Liz Christiansen

Facilities Management – Don Guckert

Ex-Officio Representatives for 2013-2014

Parking and Transportation – Dave Ricketts

UI Hospitals & Clinics – Marty Shafer

Residence Halls Housing and Dining – Scott Seagren

Office of the Vice President for Student Life – Belinda Marner

Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost – Deb Tiemens

Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development – Rich Hichwa

Senior Associate to the President – Mark Braun

Meetings

Meetings of the committee were held twice monthly beginning September 25, through December 11, 2013. The committee set a rigorous meeting schedule in order to spend time learning about the campus' extensive sustainability efforts. Below are the meeting schedule and topics for the Fall 2013 semester:

Meeting Date	Topic	Presenter
25-Sep-13	Introduction to Sustainability and UI efforts	Don Guckert, Liz Christiansen
	a. Background, definition of sustainability	
	b. Administration, relationship to operations, academics, research and community	
	c. Regents' sustainability initiative and reporting, Vision 2020	
	d. STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System)	
	e. Role of committee	
9-Oct-13	UI Energy System	Don Guckert
23-Oct-13	UI Recycling and Waste Diversion Efforts	Eric Holthaus
13-Nov-13	UI Energy Systems Part II – Delivering and Consuming Energy on the UI Campus	Doug Litwiller
	Tour of the UI Energy Control Center	Glen Mowery, George Paterson
11-Dec-13	UI Transportation	Dave Ricketts, Liz Christiansen
15-Jan-14	Strategic Scheduling of General Assignment Classrooms for Summer 2014	Doug Litwiller
	UI Biomass Fuel Project	Ferman Milster

[Agendas and minutes](#) of the charter committee meetings are posted on the UI Office of Sustainability [website](#).

After the winter break, one more informational meeting was held January 15, 2014.

Strategic Planning Retreat

A strategic planning retreat was held January 24, 2014 so the committee could meet at length and discuss priorities for action. As a result, two subcommittees were appointed. Meetings of the entire membership were then moved to once monthly with subcommittee meetings held once monthly on the alternate week. See **Attachment B** for the retreat summary notes.

The charter committee identified three priorities for action for the year:

1. ***To meet the UI 2020 target of 40% renewable energy consumption, investigations into the development of sustainable biomass fuel should continue.***

The committee agreed to send a letter of support in favor of the perennial fuel crop project to the UI President, Provost and Senior Vice President. The letter stressed the need to consider not only costs, but also externalities that include social and environmental benefits that cannot adequately be represented in a traditional business plan. See **Attachment C**.

2. ***To build a culture of sustainability, education and outreach should be expanded to reach and engage as many as possible in the campus community and raise the profile of the UI's sustainability efforts.***

The committee established a subcommittee, headed by staff co-chair Brian Thompson, to address the issues of education and outreach. Vice President of University Communications and Marketing, Joe Brennan, was invited to a regular committee meeting (March 14, 2014) to discuss communications support for campus sustainability efforts and accomplishments. The work of the subcommittee then focused on the development of a coordinator position that could expand student involvement in sustainability. At the end of May, 2014, the subcommittee met with Don Guckert and Liz Christiansen to discuss the business need for the position.

3. ***To prepare students to tackle the breadth of issues in sustainability when they leave the University of Iowa, academic offerings of sustainability-related and focused classes and learning opportunities should increase.***

The committee established a subcommittee, headed by faculty co-chair Art Bettis, to investigate means by which additional sustainability classes could be developed. The group pursued the idea of adding a sustainability class to General Education requirements, beginning in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS). The subcommittee members analyzed current class offerings and how a sustainability General Education requirement could be developed

without adding cost or an additional class requirement for undergraduates. The group drafted a memo outlining the recommendation and this was presented to representatives from the UI Provost's office and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. At the end of May, the subcommittee conducted additional analyses regarding the impact of the recommendation on existing General Education class enrollments.

Additional actions

- At its January 15, 2014 meeting, the committee agreed to send a letter to the UI Provost in support of the proposed general assignment classroom scheduling strategy designed to reduce energy consumption during summer school. See **Attachment D**.
- Jeffrey Ding, 2014-2015 UISG Vice President, attended the April 11, 2014 meeting to present the [OPEN Party Sustainability Platform](#).
- In addition, at the April 11 meeting, Don Guckert, Glen Mowery, and Ben Fish presented issues associated with various renewable fuel choice options, including expired seed corn, for the Main Power Plant.
- At the May 9, 2014 meeting, John Staley, Senior Associate Director, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC), gave a presentation on the sustainability efforts at all UIHC facilities. Jeff Biggers, the writer-in-residence for the UI Office of Sustainability Climate Narrative Project, also spoke to the group regarding the project and the work of the Climate Narrative Project student fellows.
- The committee agreed to continue to meet during the summer of 2014, with monthly committee and subcommittee meetings to be scheduled during June, July and August.

The Co-chairs of the UI Sustainability Charter Committee wish to thank its faculty, staff and student members and the administrative liaisons and ex-officio representatives for their active participation in the committee's inaugural year. We appreciate the time commitment required to launch the committee and its subcommittees successfully. The significant accomplishments of the group this year reflect the dedication and commitment of its participants to building a more sustainable University of Iowa.

Respectfully submitted,
Art Bettis, Co-chair
Brian Thompson, Co-chair

ATTACHMENT A

2.8(24) Sustainability Committee Charter.

(12/12; 7/13)

a. Membership. Confirmed by the President of the University (with administrative responsibility for membership and chair appointments handled by the Senior Vice President for Finance and Operations):

- 1) Four members appointed by the governing body of the faculty, currently the Faculty Senate;
- 2) Four members appointed by the governing body of the staff, currently the Staff Council;
- 3) Four members (two undergraduates, one graduate student, and one student from the professional colleges) appointed by the governing body of the students, currently for purposes of this committee, the joint nominations committee of the UISG and ECGPS;
- 4) Administrative liaisons: Director of the Office of Sustainability and Director of Facilities Management; Ex Officio Members: Director of Parking and Transportation; one representative from UI Hospitals & Clinics; one representative from Residence Halls Housing and Dining; one representative each from the Office of the Vice President for Student Life, the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, the Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development, and the Senior Associate to the President.
- 5) Committee will be co-chaired by a faculty member and a staff member; chair selection candidates are submitted to the President of the University by the President of the Faculty Senate and President of the Staff Council.
- 6) Student candidates will have one-year appointments according to their policies and procedures.
- 7) Faculty and staff members will have two- to three-year appointments according to their policies and procedures.

b. Charge to the Committee.

- 1) The Committee shall be governed by the terms of the General Charter.
- 2) In addition, the Committee shall:
 - (a) Recommend and advise on matters pertaining to sustainability practices and formulation of University policies;
 - (b) Advise on the integration of sustainability with existing campus programs in education, research, operations, and community outreach;

(c) Assist in engaging the campus in an ongoing dialogue about sustainability and instilling a culture of sustainable long-range planning and forward-thinking design through their respective constituencies;

(d) Advise on the development and implementation of campus sustainability action plans.

ATTACHMENT B

Charter Committee on Sustainability

Planning Retreat, January 24 2014

1-4 PM, 2390 UCC

PRESENT: Ben Anderson, Brian Thompson, Art Bettis, Sara Maples, Christine Rutledge-Russell, Ty Priest, Kelsey Zlevor, Ilsa DeWald, Ericka Raber, Jeffrey Vredenburg, Liz Christiansen

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

1. ***To meet the UI 2020 target of 40% renewable energy consumption, investigations into the development of sustainable biomass fuel should continue.*** A letter of support in favor of the biomass project will be drafted and sent to the President, Provost and Senior Vice President. The letter will stress the need to consider not only costs, but also externalities that include social and environmental benefits that cannot adequately be represented in a traditional business plan. These benefits could include:
 - Reduced fossil fuel-related CO2 emissions
 - Long-term fuel cost stability
 - Long-term fuel supply stability and diversity
 - Expanded research opportunities
 - Improved water quality through enhanced nutrient reduction strategies
 - Improved soil quality and resiliency
 - Positive direct and indirect rural economic impact
 - Increased Regent institutional collaborations and efficiencies
 - Institutional leadership in renewable energy
 - Expanded private sector advancements in biomass equipment and support services
 - Enhanced student learning opportunities in renewable energy

The charter committee should receive regular updates on the progress of this and related efforts (for example, the development of the sustainability fuel index).

2. ***To build a culture of sustainability, education and outreach should be expanded to reach and engage as many as possible in the campus community and raise the profile of the UI's sustainability efforts.*** Strategies should include a new branding and marketing effort that centers on positive values (invite the VP of Strategic Communications to a meeting to discuss). The following should also be considered:
 - Department or college green teams
 - Sustainability ambassadors

- Outreach specific to minority and international students which may include alternative language signage and messaging
- A student green leader program that could include incentives to participate (a “green tassel” honors program)
- Include sustainability as a greater part of new student, faculty and staff orientation and onboarding. Sustainability should be a featured part of On Iowa.
- Campus tours and communications to new and prospective students, faculty and staff should highlight the UI’s commitment to sustainability.
- Sustainability progress should be charted and regularly featured on the UI’s main web site.

A coordinator position in the Office of Sustainability should be established. The committee will identify a funding mechanism and develop position goals.

3. *To prepare students to tackle the breadth of issues in sustainability when they leave the University of Iowa, academic offerings of sustainability-related and focused classes and learning opportunities should increase.*

- Establish an undergraduate sustainability General Education requirement.
- Provide incentives for increased academic offerings.
- Expand enrollment in the undergraduate certificate in sustainability; certificate requirements should be regularly reviewed.
- Expand sustainability-related internships.
- Investigate the establishment of a sustainability institute to serve as a focal point for academic and research development and instructor collaboration.

Other areas of discussion:

Waste diversion –

- Campus recycling opportunities should continue to expand. Bring Tiny Trash data to committee.
- Continue to investigate the use of Big Belly units; investigate other opportunities to mesh recycling and waste diversion with the campus and Iowa City downtown.
- Continue waste audits and building walk-throughs to raise awareness and provide basic waste planning information.
- Expand compost collection on campus where feasible and consider using students to support these efforts.
- Investigate the use of re-usable food containers where feasible, especially at UIHC dining.

Energy efficiency –

- The UIHC should be an active participant in campus sustainability efforts and a UIHC position should be added to the formal committee representation. Until that can be done, an invitation to participate should be extended.
- Promote incentives for energy conservation. Ensure energy efficiency is a priority in building design and that systematic commissioning takes place. The charter committee should receive regular updates on the progress of energy conservation efforts, including the acceptance and success of energy efficiency measures.

Food –

- Increase local food purchases as a percentage of overall food purchases. Regent schools should leverage buying power to support local foods.

Other –

- Encourage telecommuting options.
- Encourage the use of internal funding opportunities to develop new work and creative efforts in sustainability: <http://research.uiowa.edu/internal-funding-initiatives-ifi>
- Seek opportunities to collaborate with Iowa State and UNI to bring sustainable solutions to Iowans.

Notes were reviewed at January 31, 2014 committee meeting.

Eac013114

Revised

Eac021214

ATTACHMENT C

February 5, 2014

Sally Mason
President, University of Iowa
101 Jessup Hall
University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Dear President Mason:

The University of Iowa Sustainability Charter Committee supports continued investigations into the development of a variety of sustainable biomass fuels, including miscanthus (see note), for use in the main Power Plant.

In 2013, the UI planted a pilot plot of 16 acres of miscanthus. Based on this success, plans are being developed to establish another pilot field. The UI should:

- Establish the second pilot plot of miscanthus in spring 2014.
- Contract an agricultural services provider who will support further development of the miscanthus fuel project.
- Complete a risk management plan for implementation on all UI miscanthus plots.
- Continue with planned tests of miscanthus and other biomass fuels in the main Power Plant.
- Continue the Plant Applicability Limit (PAL) permitting process that will enhance the UI's ability to use a variety of sustainable biomass fuels while meeting air quality protection measures.
- Investigate cooperative miscanthus fuel research and production opportunities with other Regent schools, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.
- Strengthen the partnership with the Iowa State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in the planning and development of a production-scale biomass fuel crop. Work with ISU and other agencies and institutions to understand and mitigate risks associated with certain fuel crops.

The committee recognizes that alternative fuel sources must be developed in a cost-effective manner, but asks that consideration be given to social and environmental benefits that often cannot adequately be represented in a business plan. These benefits could include:

- Reduced fossil fuel-related CO2 emissions
- Long-term fuel cost stability
- Long-term fuel supply stability and diversity
- Expanded research opportunities
- Improved water quality through enhanced nutrient reduction strategies
- Improved soil quality and resiliency through perennial cropping
- Positive direct and indirect rural economic impact
- Increased Regent institutional collaborations and efficiencies
- Institutional leadership in renewable energy
- Expanded private sector advancements in biomass equipment and support services
- Enhanced student learning opportunities in renewable energy

The committee has asked UI Facilities Management staff to provide regular updates on the progress of this and related efforts (for example, the development of the sustainability fuel index).

If successful, sustainable biomass fuel sources will help the University of Iowa achieve its 2020 Target of 40% renewable energy.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Art Bettis and Brian Thompson, Co-chairs

University of Iowa Sustainability Charter Committee

Note – All references to miscanthus in this letter refer to *Miscanthus x giganteus* (Mxg), which is a sterile variety of the Miscanthus species in that it does not product viable seed.

cc: Provost Barry Butler

Senior Vice President Doug True

ATTACHMENT D

January 18, 2014

P. Barry Butler
Executive Vice President and Provost
111 Jessup Hall
University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Dear Provost Butler:

The University of Iowa Charter Committee on Sustainability supports the general assignment classroom scheduling strategy to be implemented in summer, 2014.

This effort, developed by Renee Houser and Charlene Maher in the Registrar's office in collaboration with Facilities Management staff, will compact room scheduling for courses and events in order to consolidate the use of occupied space on campus. This will allow for selected air handling units in other buildings to be switched to "unoccupied" mode earlier in the day to minimize energy consumption during summer months.

Implementing such strategies will help our campus achieve the UI's Sustainability Target of "of consuming less energy on campus in 2020 than consumed in 2010 despite projected growth."

Sincerely,

Art Bettis and Brian Thompson, Co-chairs
University of Iowa Charter Committee on Sustainability