**Student Affairs and Campus Life Advisory Committee Minutes**

Meeting time, place and date:

Friday, 10 March,4:02pm

Committee members present:

* Veena Ravishankar (Chair)
* Ginny Morriss (Secretary)
* Cate Brewer
* Jeb Collins
* Melissa Jones (ex-officio member)
* Abby Zurfluh (student rep, RA)
* Catherine DeGolyer-Howell (student rep, RA)

Introductions

Climate Action Task Force, co-chairs Sean Morrow and Alan Griffith

Items of Business, including Motions

* Presentation
  + What climate action task force is doing on campus, plan for action to come, what has been done, what is currently being done, and where to go from here.
  + Charge of the committee
    - Develop a plan to reduce carbon emissions. Develop measurable objectives. Identify specific actions, policies, and procedures. Provide timeframe for implementation of the plan.
      * Conversations started pre-COVID, restarted last March to discuss vision.
      * Goal: Achieve net neutral greenhouse gas emissions for university operations.
    - Task force is putting a plan together for this process
      * Plan build to save money over time, but will include upfront costs
    - Timeline:
      * Plan available to campus community July 2023, carbon neutral by 2035.
  + Feedback from groups on campus is important in this process
    - Will start by planning programs, resources, and policies to decrease carbon emissions. Started with low-hanging fruit to be implemented within 6 months of approval of the plan
    - Plan will empower community to take action, without action and wide-scale buy-in, plan will not be feasible.
  + What is happening currently?
    - Developing partnerships since March that committee feels are beneficial to the success of the plan currently and in the future
      * Programs designed for keeping records, tools for university tracking, network of colleagues and universities who are seeking or have made climate action plans, Fredericksburg city has steep goals for the city.
  + Energy Savings Performance Contracts
    - Currently in process working with contracting companies for energy management to determine:
      * What areas can we improve on campus?
      * What low-hanging fruit can we address immediately (switch lights, fix leaky window seals, etc)
    - Researching power purchase agreement.
      * Hopeful this will allow university to hit first goal for energy
      * Looking for best places to put solar panels or purchase power from large solar arrays
      * Can act as an educational opportunity for students.
    - Must be strategic about how the plan is implemented.
  + Changing curricula
    - Part of objectives is about changing the curricula to get these ideas incorporated into the curricula.
    - Some faculty have already reached out about getting some projects into classrooms.
      * Example: Project Development course in Business
        + Pitch student development projects that might be useful
        + 6 projects that will be developed to help the university move toward objectives
        + Point here is that we are already moving toward these goals as a community
    - Get students asking about climate change and using applied techniques to understand how climate action is viewed
    - Survey for climate change. Ask faculty to respond to what is their general comfort level with climate change, what is the comfort level with working these ideas into classes.
      * Please respond to surveys as they come out.
  + The path forward
    - Committee is organized into six subcommittees
      * Energy management, transportation, curriculum & research, operations, community, inventory
    - Will be sending out objectives to faculty soon.
    - Objectives will be organized into the above subgroups
    - Want feedback from faculty
      * Carefully read and provide comments on the objectives
  + Plan as a community
    - When objectives are put together, need to get approval
    - Make sure each objective stated
    - Identify responsible person in institution for getting objectives accomplished
    - Get people on board and push for action
    - Needs community effort between students, faculty, and staff
      * If no community effort, job will not get done.
    - Dropbox where anyone can respond to objectives or ask questions, via QR code.
* Discussion
  + What can we, as the SACL committee, do to help the task force?
    - Three subcommittees more directly connected to student activities and campus life.
    - Look at curriculum and research, operations, and community & engagement objectives, provide comments
  + Would like to design and carry out an annual meeting about climate change and action – community effort
* Questions
  + We as faculty could be in a couple of categories for educating incoming students. How can we get this information into classes that seem to have no connection to climate change?
    - Some courses are not connected in a sensible way to climate change/action. Not suggesting that every single corner needs to be connected, but can seek out places where connections can be made.
  + As faculty, how can be proactively include this in our syllabi or attending events/making changes?
    - In a course where there is no direct connection, it is important to practice engagement. More sense will be made of this when the faculty get objectives for the plan.
    - Make changes that are visible to students.
    - Encourage engagement of students to act in climate conscious or sustainable behavior. Example: Focus on more online work, not paper-based. Small actions like this are important in helping to show sustainable behavior.
  + Any other questions can be submitted to the Dropbox. The Dropbox will remain live until the draft is delivered to President Paino. The Climate Action website can be found on the sustainability website.
  + Do you already have plans to hold evens for educating the community?
    - Yes. In the process of planning some events.
      * Working with university communications to have a meeting to talk about the plan, at the end of the month.
      * Fredericksburg area climate conference.
      * Office of sustainability is partnering with community organizations, primarily run by high schoolers to engage in interesting panels and presentations
      * Objective to support annual conference to get updates from city and strengthen connections with Fredericksburg community
      * Important that the plan that is built has objectives that are implementable.
    - Limited places where we are currently taking action. What we should look for in the objectives is what is our part in getting to the endpoints in the objectives.

Trickle down

* + - * Students begin looking at D1 schools, but if do not get scholarships, then begin looking at D3 schools
    - Looking for good athletes, but also looking for good students
      * Talk about university first, students need to know that education comes first here
    - Athletes make up ~18-20% of freshman class, coaches have autonomy to go in direction they want to go in
  + Move to directly working with President
    - Day to day operations have not changed
    - Only difference is President knows what strategy he wants to work on over the next couple years
    - Stay in lock-step with ASPIRE values. Set expectations in the classroom, on the field, on campus and in the stands. Will talk with athletes that thinks may not be living up to ASPIRE values.
      * Important to create environment where everyone is welcome and valued
* Thanks to Sean and Alan.
* Committee tasks
  + Melissa Wells from UFOC reached out about training members of Honors Counsel and/or SACL to serve on appellate board
    - Three members trained to serve on board, only need one at any given time to sit on hearing, multiple trained to ensure at least one is available.
    - Does not seem to matter that some members are rotating off this committee.
    - Might not be able to sustain participation on this committee, work in progress
    - There are there usually appellate boards for conduct issues at other institutions. Training would happen every year to ensure that there are people trained to manage this task.
  + Meeting minutes approved
  + Decide on guest for next meeting
    - Waiting to hear who the next guest will be. Possibly Dave Fleming again to discuss conduct. Will contact Leslie if Dave is unable to make it.

Adjournment and next meeting details

The meeting adjourned at 4:44 pm.

Next meeting time, April 7, 4 pm.