

**UF Sustainability Committee
Eva Czarnecka-Verner, Chair
Report for September 2006-May 2007**

This report does not include activities of the Office of Sustainability directed by Dedee DeLongpre, Climate Change Task Force chaired by Charles Kibert, Zero Waste Task Force chaired by Mark Hostetler, nor Physical Plant Division represented by Allan Preston

Committee meetings: 6 plus one May 2, 2007; additional Task Forces meetings were conducted

List of members	Attendance	Activities
Ankersen, Tom	4	Sust. Curriculum survey; Research & Education Task Force LBR; Resigned to serve as staff
Burkhardt, Jeffery	3	Minigrants Head
Cantrell, Fred	0	
Crider, Linda	3	Focus the Nation Steering Comm. Chair; Research & Education Task Force, LBR
Czarnecka-Verner, Eva	5	SC Chair ; Research & Education Task Force; LBR; Facets of Sustainability course creator; minigrants; Focus the Nation
Deal, Lisa	4	Sustainable Endowment Report Card information
Delfino, Joseph	4	Water Task Force liaison
DeLongpre, Dedee	5	Director; Office of Sustainability
Ferguson, James	0	
Gold, Martin	0	Certificates; Resigned
Hostetler, Mark	3	Zero Waste Task Force Chair, R&E Task Force
Hartmann, Marta	0	
Kibert, Charles	2	Energy & Climate Change Task Force; minigrants
Machen, Chris	4	Graduation Pledge Alliance; Sustainable Endowments Report Card
Mulkey, Stephen	1	Advised on LBR: Resigned but will advise
Preston, Allen	5	Focus the Nation Steering Committee; UF taxi, Shuttle, Fleet management and other initiatives
Rockwood, Donald	2	Minigrants; Resigned
Tanzer, Kim	6	Research & Education Task Force; LBR
Kara Sue Cobb		Excellent minutes
Ruhl, Laura Suzanne	3	Student; Focus the Nation initiative; minigrants

Ashley Bittner	3	Student; Focus the Nation initiative
Anna Prizzia	1	Just joined; Outreach Coordinator OS

1. Provost Fellow

In 2005 the Faculty Senate approved the position of Director of the Sustainability Office (currently Dedee DeLongpre) and its research and education counterpart, Chief Academic Officer. The Provost changed the latter to a Provost Fellow position and allocated funds for it. In the summer of 2006, the Sustainability Committee (SC) searched for an outstanding Provost Fellow candidate. However, no individual was chosen from the first round of recruitment.

In fall 2006, under advisement of the Provost, the Committee continued revising the requirements for the Provost Fellow position. The description was readjusted several times by the SC Provost Fellow Subcommittee, but a second round of recruitment was not carried out. However, there is a continued pressing need for an Academic counterpart to the Director of the Office of Sustainability at UF.

2. Report on Fostering Curriculum Development and Cross-Campus Collaboration in Sustainability

In summer/fall 2006, Committee member Tom Ankersen was commissioned by the Provost to provide an analysis of the Sustainability Curriculum on campus. The comprehensive Report on Fostering Curriculum Development and Cross-Campus Collaboration in Sustainability with Conclusions and Recommendations was provided to the Provost, and can be accessed at <http://www.sustainable.ufl.edu/reports/Final%20Sustainability%20Report%2010-18-06.pdf>

3. Engagement of Students in the Sustainability Committee Work

The SC vigorously promotes students' involvement with the Committee's work. Several students participated in Committee meetings and/or contributed significantly to various aspects of Committee's initiatives. Notably:

- Brenda Appledorn – Report on Fostering Curriculum Development
- Mark De Paul- representative of Student Government
- John Linhoss- contributed to running the Committee's course Facets of Sustainability in 2007
- Adrienne Dessey- survey of other higher education institutions for degrees in sustainability/LBR contribution
- Laura Ruhl- Focus the Nation initiative and helped evaluating minigrants
- Ashley Bittner- Focus the Nation initiative
- Yooni Yi- Student Government liaison
- Chris McVety- ECC Task Force

3. Campus-wide Certificate in Sustainability

Committee member Martin Gold introduced the proposal for the Certificate in Sustainability to be officially endorsed by the Provost. The Committee approved the motion. The Provost currently researches the possibility.

4. Facets of Sustainability

The Facets of Sustainability course that was first developed and run in the fall 2005 by the current Committee Chair, Eva Czarnecka-Verner. It was a very popular course among the students and general public. The popularity of the course stemmed from its plethora of topics spanning all three aspects of sustainability in one course, the so called “three E’s”: environmental protection, reasonable economical growth and social equity. The course included comprehensive student discussion of issues and short field trips. And more importantly, it utilized already available UF faculty resources involved in various aspects of sustainability. This opened communication pathways between faculty and students to further involve students in sustainability research.

In the spring 2007, the SC course has been continued under the direction of Les Thiele. There were 100 slots for students available with about 90 registrations; after drops, about 80 enrolled students remained. Additionally, other attendees at the lectures included walk-ins from faculty, non-registered students and the general public that ranged, in total, from about 10-40 per lecture.

5. Focus the Nation initiative

Committee member Linda Crider introduced the initiative to support Focus the Nation efforts to find solutions to global warming. Focus the Nation is an ambitious educational initiative that will culminate on January 31, 2008 in a national symposia held simultaneously at over a thousand colleges, universities, high schools and other institutions. Eban Goodstein, FtN Director, described in following words goals of FtN:

“Focus the Nation does not endorse any political candidates or legislation. Their goal is to engage America’s educational institutions and students in a serious and sustained discussion of global warming solutions, and to promote civic engagement, including direct dialogue between students and political leaders” (email communication to Linda Crider, April 1, 2007).

SC voted to support the FtN initiative. Subsequently, the Committee presented a resolution proposal to the Faculty Senate and Student Government. The resolution passed in both of these bodies. In great collaboration with student leaders (via SC members Ashley Bittner and Laura Ruhl), the Office of Sustainability (Director Dedee DeLongpre and Outreach Coordinator Anna Prizzia), Alachua County schools and community groups, a comprehensive calendar of events is in the process of being assembled and will be put on the Sustainability website. In consideration are the following: discussion groups, various concepts for Expo, panel forum, musical events, list serv set up, film festival, a gala night event, field trips to green buildings, nature sites, eceteras.

There is support from ACCENT and SPG to bring speakers. Flags of support from all Departments are being posted on the website.

6. Graduation Pledge Alliance

Committee member Kim Tanzer introduced the graduation pledge alliance idea. Graduating seniors pledged to “explore and take into account the social and environmental consequences of any job they consider and try to improve these aspects of any organization for which they work”. The pilot event was hosted in the name of the Committee by Chris Machen at the President’s House with considerable input from the Office of Sustainability DeDee DeLongpre and Anna Prizzia. Attending graduating students signed the voluntary Graduation Pledge Alliance document and received special sustainability pins.

7. Legislative Budget Request

Committee Chair Eva Czarnecka-Verner suggested considering UF Congressional Budget Request funding in pursuing sustainability educational goals originally included as part of the Provost Fellow job description. In the absence of a Provost Fellow, the Research and Education Task Force (R&E Task Force) of Committee was created that included as follows: Tom Ankersen, Kim Tanzer, Linda Crider, Alan Preston, Mark Hostetler and Eva Czarnecka-Verner. The R&E Task Force focused on writing the Legislative Budget Request (LBR) to secure funds from Legislature to create a University-wide sustainability program that would encompass the following:

- a) Start initially with 6 colleges where sustainability theory and practice will be advanced through undergraduate and graduate curriculums
- b) Integrate academic, operational and extension aspects of sustainability
- c) Promote undergraduate and graduate education in sustainability through interdisciplinary applied research
- d) Provide professional credentials
 - certificates/minors
 - MS degrees
 - PhD degrees
- e) Emphasize service learning
- f) Support existing courses and develop new courses (like *Facets in Sustainability*- course in its 2nd year)
- g) Support internal and external interdisciplinary collaborative research projects
- h) Emphasize the need and facilitate attempts to obtain external grants in sustainability
- i) Promote publishing, conferences and community involvement in sustainability
- j) Incorporate the present Office of Sustainability
- k) Train future leaders that are familiar with the principles of sustainability

The Sustainability Committee promotes the idea that sustainability must be an academic priority at UF as stated in the following article:

<http://news.ufl.edu/wp-content/insideuf/20070417.pdf>.

The LBR is in its last stages of preparation and will be submitted by May 1st, 2007.

8. Minigrants

In the absence of the Provost Fellow, Committee member Jeff Burkhardt headed up efforts to solicit and evaluate minigrant proposals from UF faculty that would deal with the Enhancement of Sustainability in Instruction. The Sustainability Committee intends to fund proposals from UF faculty to advance sustainable principles in their curricula. The funds were to be allocated from the pool for the Provost Fellow. Faculty was encouraged to consider enhancing existing course pedagogy by inviting sustainability experts related to their fields; traveling to important locations, or attending seminars or conferences in the relevant sustainability area in order to bring first-hand experience to the classroom. Faculty was encouraged to organize student field-trips, or develop new courses that would leverage interdisciplinary sustainable models. Overall, the Committee required a demonstration of how sustainable principles would be engaged in the classroom on a continuing basis. The submitted proposals were evaluated by Committee members (Linda Crider, Charles Kibert, Donald Rockwood, Laura Ruhl and Eva Czarnecka-Verner) and rankings provided to the Provost's Office on April 19, 2007. The detailed request for proposals can be viewed at http://www.aa.ufl.edu/documents/Sustainability_Minigrant_2007.pdf

Currently, the Committee awaits the Provost's decision regarding the release of funds.

9. Infrastructure Council/Sustainability Committee joint venture

The Infrastructure Council visited with members of the Sustainability Committee to analyze ways in which sustainability may be incorporated into University's policy. These would include increased construction standards, budgetary policy related to sustainability investment, reviewing the Campus Master Plan to incorporate sustainability, work with the Foundation to create donation categories to benefit campus sustainability, among others.

10. Water Task Force organization

Clark and Ondine Wells presented to the Committee a proposal to address water quality issues at UF. There have been numerous recent efforts to address these issues, but no formal management structure to coordinate them. They proposed the creation of a Water Task Force under the Office of Sustainability to develop and implement a sustainable management plan for campus water resource issues.

The Water Task Force could address a variety of water management issues including the following:

- Set campus-wide priorities regarding water issues;
- Advise campus-wide activities which impact water quality (such as campus design, construction, maintenance and landscaping);

- Evaluate current nutrient concentrations in campus watersheds, assess the level of concern and adopt appropriate internal goals;
- Promote Best Management Practices (BMPs) to address specific water quality concerns;
- Ensure implementation of the new storm water policies in the Campus Master Plan;
- Support research activities related to water resources, particularly those which use the campus as a living laboratory;
- Evaluate issues of water quantity such as periodic flooding;
- Assess water conservation, reclamation and re-use efforts on campus; and
- Provide an annual report to the Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee.

The Committee moved to create the Water Task Force at UF. Joe Delfino will function as the Committee liaison to the Water Task Force. During the next committee meeting, this initiative will be firmed up. The SC Chair invited Mark Clark to Chair the Water Task Force and Ondine Wells to participate.

11. Bright Ideas for Sustainability Award

DeDee DeLongpre promoted the incentive, rewards and recognition program for sustainability. The Committee will help draft criteria and evaluate.

12. Strategic sustainability plan for campus

DeDee DeLongpre promoted the initiative to create a strategic sustainability plan for campus. The Committee moved to create a working group that would include the Chairs of the Task Forces

13. College Sustainability Endowment Report Card

In 2007 the Sustainable Endowment Institute released the Green Report Card which evaluated colleges all over the country by assessing campus greening practices and endowment policies. It took into account 26 indicators as diverse as green building initiatives and endowment investment policies. This was the first assessment of a sort and included analysis of 100 public and private colleges in US and Canada, including Ivey League and Big 10 colleges and universities. From seven stipulated categories, the University of Florida received “A” grades in Administration and Green Building. UF was also given three grades of “C”: in Climate Change & Energy, Food and Recycling, and Investment Priorities. The least satisfactory were two “F” grades in Endowment Transparency, and Shareholder Investment. The overall grade for UF was a “C”, and the school was ranked as 80th out of 115 evaluated.

As we seek to enhance the University’s standing as a global leader, sustainability and endowment policies are seen as an intrinsic components of sustainability efforts. The Committee, in cooperation with the Office of Sustainability, aims to communicate the need for transparency in the University’s investments and will seek pathways for possible improvement.

14. Develop Performance Criteria for the Director of the Office of Sustainability

The Committee will develop performance criteria for the Director of the Office of Sustainability and participate in the annual evaluations.