



**PRESIDENT'S  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**

Minutes

February 17, 2020, 1:00-2:30 pm

Michael Smith Natural Resources Building - 345

**1. Introductions – 5 minutes**

Tonie Miyamoto, Carol Dollard, John Finch, Sam Stoltz, Allison Vitt, Brian Dunbar, Doug Max, Anthony Appleton, Tammy Felton, Aaron Fodge, Jake Drenth, Tim Brennan, Grace Hall, Stephanie Clemons, Stacey Baumgarn, Monica Latham, Jocelyn Hittle, Julie Kallenberger, Maile Wood, Dan McGrath, Andrew Warnock, Tony Rappe, Mary Guiden, Mary Liang, Sara VanHatten, Beth Etter, Danielle Backman, Diana Wall

**2. STARS is done! – 10 minutes**

- a. CSU earned its 3<sup>rd</sup> Platinum STARS rating! CSU was the first Platinum rated university in 2015, repeated this in 2017 and has once again repeated this feat in 2019 (although the report was official in January 2020). CSU surpassed Stanford and currently has the highest score in the US and second highest in the world behind Thompson Rivers University in Canada. The top 3 universities are separated by tenths of a point.
- b. President McConnell was very excited about this milestone and has shared it with the Board of Governors, at the Green & Gold Gala, at the Capital on Founder's Day, and on social media. Even Governor Jared Polis and First Gentleman Marlon Reis congratulated CSU on Facebook for all the hard work!
- c. The STARS announcement did well across CSU social media channels and Mary Guiden will put together a media summary of STARS coverage. Carol did a nationwide radio interview and several publications have reached out for stories. Aaron shared that several campuses have already contacted him about the report.
- d. Full slides of STARS comparison graphs are attached to the minutes. Main points:
  - i. When comparing CSU to the other four Platinum institutions, CSU shines in Planning and Administration, Academics and Research, and Engagement categories.
  - ii. Academics and Research section scored 100% largely due to the approval of the institutional learning outcomes in late 2019. There are sustainability majors and minors in every college and 1,750 sustainability research projects (thanks to Anthony Appleton for his hard work on this one).
  - iii. Engagement category scored high thanks to student organizations like the Student Sustainability Center, ASCSU, Eco Leaders, and Zero Waste Team as well as Alternative Transportation for their engagement efforts for all new CSU employees. 531,994 hours of community service was reported!
  - iv. Operations category wins 'most improved', but still has a long way to go. 335,000 feet of LEED certified space was added since the 2017 report and now 13.5% of campus energy is renewable. Facilities Management is working on 'Path to Platinum' to improve Operations score (this is the area that most schools struggle with).
  - v. Planning and Administration category scored well with help from Provost Rick Miranda who made sure sustainability was included in the university strategic plan. The CSU Foundation doubled its positive sustainability investments from 6% to 13% and they have made it a goal to increase this.
- e. Looking ahead – need to implement the recently approved learning outcomes, create engagement program for faculty and staff that includes peer to peer engagement, increase positive sustainable

investments, work towards 100% community service, 100% renewable electricity, and a green campus fleet (a Fleet Study is in progress now and it is a good time to set goals for this). Additionally, we must keep pace with the Living Wage Initiative to make sure our lowest paid employees are making a living wage, decrease the number of employees commuting in single occupancy vehicles, work to LEED certify existing buildings, improve food and beverage purchasing to include more 3<sup>rd</sup> party verified products, aim towards 100% recycled paper, and reduce overall waste.

### **3. Pollinator Friendly Campus Committee Update – 15 minutes (David Hansen, Campus Landscape Architect)**

- a. The Pollinator Friendly Campus Committee is a subcommittee of PSC.
- b. Committee began after a student email to the President's Office about saving dandelions on campus to protect bees. In just over a year, the committee that includes individuals from Facilities Management, faculty researchers, Horticulture Department, Housing and Dining Services, various city partners, and students have had success in creating pollinator friendly gardens (first one outside Clark A) and earning CSU a Bee Campus USA Certification in 2018 (the first school in Colorado to do so).
  - i. These pollinator gardens utilize perennial rather than annual flowers, are selective of the plants that go into the gardens, include mulch areas for bees, and feature bee hotels for native species.
  - ii. In addition to the one outside Clark A, there are pollinator gardens outside of the Weed Research Lab, Computer Science Building, the Student Recreation Center Patio, and the Foothills campus.
- c. The CSU Apiculture Club partnered with the committee and Housing & Dining to create a hive location at Durrell Center. Had issues in the winter and now bees are kept south of campus in the winter where they can stay warm. Honey from the bees is harvested in the summer by the Apiculture Club and served at Environmental Eats Events at the Foundry Dining Center.
- d. Environmental Health Services (EHS) has changed policy for swarms to engage local beekeepers and students from Veterinary Medicine help work on antibiotics for large scale beekeeping.
- e. Facilities Management is in the final stretch of finalizing a policy with EHS to make sure they are only spraying pesticides as last resort and are working with EHS to approve certain pesticides.
- f. What's next? This spring/summer the committee is working on native bee watch (a citizen science project) to look at specific pollinator areas to see what kind of bees and plants are successful. The committee is beginning the application for renewal for Bee Campus USA Certification. They hope to triple what they have been doing and Jocelyn offered a connection to the Butterfly Pavilion.

### **4. Institutional Learning Outcomes Update – 10 minutes**

- a. Team working on implementation of Learning Outcomes is a 'think tank' of representatives from each college. Tony Rappe is on the think tank and also serves as the PSC Chair of the Academics and Research Subcommittee. They are looking at implementing a change of AUCC requirements to have plan in place for the new Provost when they arrive. This has been several years in the making, but it is 'baked in' that sustainability will be a part of new AUCC requirements moving forward.

### **5. Tribute Tree – location selected, and fundraising will begin soon – 10 minutes**

- a. The intent is to plant an Elm tree on the Oval by Laurel Hall and the Occupational Therapy Building during Earth Week to honor Chancellor Tony Frank and his commitment to sustainability during his time as CSU President. This will be one of the 150 trees planted during Earth Week.
- b. There will be a bronze plaque that will go with the tree, the first tree on the Oval to have a plaque. Can this plaque be from recycled metal?
- c. Fundraising goal is \$1500. The link to the fundraising page will go out this week. This link will not be public, and the goal is that the tree will be funded by internal PSC connections. Do not forward the link to identified donors to CSU, if you have a donor ask Tonie for approval.
- d. The fundraising page should make it easy to view progress towards the goal. Any additional funds raised will go to the newly-established Arboretum Fund on campus.
- e. The next step is to get the fundraising page established and ask the Systems Office if Dr. Frank would like to attend the tree planting.

**6. Earth Week 2020 – review of scheduled events – 10 minutes**

- a. 150 trees are going to be planted during Earth Week to honor CSU's 150th anniversary.
- b. Monday April 20: PSC recognition Event – please send Tonie campus-wide awards, recognitions, and milestones; individual honors will be included in a slideshow.
  - i. Deadline for submissions is March 20. Please include what the campus wide recognition is, the names of those involved, and a short summary of why this is a milestone. This will during our April PSC Meeting.
- c. Tuesday: still filling in the gaps here.
- d. Wednesday: Earth Day Festival in the Sculpture Garden and College of Liberal Arts Ted Talks.
- e. Thursday: Earth, Sun, and Fire Tour of foothills campus. Will take place later in the day to increase student participation.
- f. Friday: Compost Giveaway and E-Waste Collection.
- g. Other suggestions? Email Tonie any events during the entire month of April for the website. Please note that printed materials will only be for the events happening during Earth Week (April 20-24). To request a booth for the Earth Day Festival, email Kirstie Tedrick.

**7. March Meeting Reschedule – 5 minutes**

- a. The next meeting will be on Monday, March 23 (the Monday after Spring Break) from 1pm-2:30pm in Natural Resources 345.

**8. Member Updates – 25 minutes**

- a. Beth Etter – CLA hosting Environmental Ethics talks at the Alumni Center on April 14, 15, 16.
- b. Sara VanHatten – Student Sustainability Center is planning a networking event in early April and are looking for individuals from a wide range of professions
- c. Mary Liang – Annual Waste Audit is March 4 – sign-up sheet went out last month with the PSC Meeting Minutes.
- d. Maile Wood - Ecoleaders taking part in RecycleMania and are encouraging waste diversion and teaching about the new recycling guidelines
- e. Jocelyn Hittle - SPUR Campus is in the design phase for all facilities. Help is needed to review the documents to see if there is anything missing. If interested, webX review sessions will be set up - look for email invite
- f. Stacey Baumgarn – wanted to acknowledge what Anthony Appleton has done in a year to engage researchers in lab spaces around safety and sustainability.
- g. Aaron Fodge – met with Colorado State Rail Commission, and it is anticipated that in 2021 there will be something on the ballot about a Front Range rail from Fort Collins to Pueblo that may connect CSU's campuses in Pueblo and Fort Collins for \$5.5 billion. Got a \$1.5 million grant to study the West Elizabeth corridor about a potential MAX line that would connect main campus to the Foothills Campus
- h. Anthony Appleton – Campaign for informative stickers on laboratory chemical fume hoods that connects safety and sustainability is launching. Look for booth at Earth Week.
- i. Doug Max – Zero Waste students have been at Moby during sporting events doing compost collection and waste sorting. Athletics has a student athlete group that comes to executive meetings and these students keep saying they want to be more sustainable.
- j. Brian Dunbar – IBE has to move by May and are looking for 1000sq ft to move to, please let Brian know if you have a potential space
- k. Sam Stoltz – ASCSU Department of Environmental affairs working on BYOC campaign. Working with Fraternity & Sorority Life on the creation of a Greek Sustainability Council and want to bring a fall farmers market to campus. Also working with an Eco Leader to develop a carpool app for students.
- l. Carol – AASHE program proposals are due Feb 28, conference will be in Milwaukee in October.

- m. Tonie – Office of President and CSU Salazaar Center on Conservation are seeking nominations for the Impact Prize. This prize is \$10,000 and is tailored to early career faculty who have made an impact in conservation. The PSC has been invited to nominate someone, please send nominations to Tonie. New [green.colostate.edu](http://green.colostate.edu) website is up! Thanks to Steve Garten from Division of Student Affairs. If anything is missing let Tonie know.
- n. Aleta Weller – applications are open for Sustainability Leadership Fellows. This is open to late stage PhD students and early career postdocs. SoGES completed proposal for graduate leadership development and open access curriculum to allow for leadership development programs in other universities.