

# Sustainability Council

## Sustainability Council Meeting Minutes 2.13.2020

2:30 p.m.: Meeting Called to order by Lani May (meeting supplemented by slide presentation)

### 1. Roll Call

Member	Title	Committee Position	Present?	Designee
Lani May, Chair	Director, UTSA Office of Sustainability		yes	
Sarah Hada	Research Representative		yes	
Dr. Melissa Vito	Interim Vice Provost, Academic Innovation		yes (designee)	Joe Tobares
Elisa Perkins	Citymester Program Manager, Honors College Representative		yes	
Lindsay Ratcliffe	CAAP Representative		yes	
Lauren Beaver	Campus Services		yes	
Dr. Rhonda Gonzales	Interim Dean, College of Liberal and Fine Arts		des (designee)	Dr. Steve Levitt
Dr. Heather Shipley	Dean, University College		no	Dr. Jianwei Niu and Dr. Ginnifer Cie Gee
Dr. Can Saygin	Senior Vice Provost, University Planning		no	
Ingrid Wright	University Planning Representative		yes	
Dagoberto Rodriguez	Facilities Energy Manager		yes	
LT Robinson	Dean of Students or Delegate		yes	
Dr. Myron Anderson	Vice President of Inclusive Excellence		no	
Jack Rust	President, SGA		yes	
Gage Martin	Student Appointee		yes	
Carolina "Caro" Nanez	Student Appointee, VOICES		no	Alyssa Canizalez
OPEN	Student Appointee (Sustainability Review Committee)			
OPEN	Student Appointee (Underrepresented Students)			

### 2. Welcome and Introduction

- Lani May presented history, purpose, responsibility of Sustainability Council (SC)
  - Established to carry out UT System Rule 169: Sustainability Practices
  - Main responsibilities

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- generate supplemental plan (i.e., 5-year plan)
  - should be comparable to that of peer institutions
  - should include sections covering the President's strategic initiatives
  - should supplement the University Master Plan
- produce annual report by Aug 31
- advise the President on matters related to sustainability
- create opportunities to advance sustainability at UTSA

## 3. Proposed timeline for 5-year plan (Lani May)

- May proposed the following timeline:
  - Feb 13: Establish sub-committee to lead efforts; begin writing scope for 5-year plan
  - Mar 13: Review data discovery and compilation
    - every committee member should gather baseline data, i.e.:
      - How are UTSA divisions engaging in sustainability right now?
      - What goals for sustainability will each division set?
      - What are benchmarks and timelines for achieving goals?
  - April 9: Compile, edit, and finalize draft for branding
  - April 30: Request branding and publication review
  - Aug 31: Target publication date (prior to Fall 2020)
- May proposed asking the president to support 5-year plan (i.e., funding a consultant to produce document)
- Action item: May will begin outline document and share with SC members

## 4. Visit to Credit Human HQ (Ben Perry, University Architect)

- SC members are invited to take a private tour of new Credit Human headquarters (to open late 2020), which is a model of sustainability:
  - 200,000 square-foot building
  - Uses geothermal and 1-MW solar array
  - Uses water reuse/rainwater harvesting
  - Projected to use 46% less energy and 97% less water than conventional building of comparable size
  - Energy savings: CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent of removing 224 cars from San Antonio roads per year
- Learning about this building's efficiency practices could inform our campus decision-making processes
- Action item: SC members should send their calendar availability to Lani May to schedule a tour

## 5. Student Tree Mitigation Committee (Lani May)

- UTSA has been designated as a "Tree Campus" by the Arbor Day Foundation since 2016
- Honors Students Kayla Donovan, Crystal Quinones, Maisha Rahman, whose Citymester honors project is to develop a tree preservation and mitigation policy for campus:
  - Policy will be written, vetted, and approved through University leadership and SC
  - Will include tree counts; requests for exemption; annual renewal of "Tree Campus" designation

## 6. Curricular Integration of Sustainability (Lani May)

- Part of SC's work is to develop graduates that have knowledge of sustainability
- We need to integrate and track what we are already doing
  - What sustainability-related courses are currently offered?

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- What sustainability-related research is occurring?
- What metrics should we develop to track sustainability?
- Other goals:
  - Create core requirements in sustainability / course requirement for graduation
  - Create a certificate in sustainability

## 7. UT System Student Advisory Council (Jack Rust)

- UT SAC has identified sustainability as key priority
- However, no sustainability-related annual reports from 13 UT institutions are available via the UT System page (only 2-3 can be located via general online search)
- We are under-performing as a system on sustainability
- UTSA has an opportunity to lead in this area:
  - SGA will draft a letter to President Eighmy advocating for greater focus on sustainability
  - SC should draft a similar letter
  - Lani May noted that the National Security Collaboration Center on San Pedro Creek (a new campus of UTSA) presents a great opportunity to create a sustainable campus showplace/a “living laboratory” of sustainable practices

## 8. Action Item: May will create and share a PDF of UTS 169: Sustainable Practices to SC members

## 9. SGA Update (Gage Martin)

- SGA advocates closing the African American faculty gap at UTSA
  - 2,700 students identify as African American/Black; yet only 53 faculty members identify as such
  - SGA calls for equitable hiring practices to address this representation gap
  - Martin will collaborate with LT Robinson to align SGA efforts with existing UTSA efforts
  - Action item: Martin will share SGA document with SC
- Composting
  - SGA member Kennedy Caskey has extensively researched composting and proposes bringing in-vessel composting system to UTSA
  - Estimated cost \$1.2-1.5 million
  - Caskey aims to submit a proposal to SGA, then SC, by end of year
  - Action item: Martin will ask Caskey to contact Ben Perry to integrate composting as part of UTSA campus Master Plan

## 10. Open Floor

- Student Q: What are the results of last month’s petition to change the SUSTAIN grant proposal timeline from yearly to monthly?
- Lani May A: Petition passed; procedures should be revised by March
- Student Q: How can students not on SC support sustainability efforts?
- Lani May A: participate in tabling events, fill out online forms/petitions, attend and speak at SGA meetings, write a blog post on Sustainability website, engage and promote sustainability events and initiatives on social media (Basura Bash, Party on the Paseo, Earth Day)

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## 11. Other business:

- SC members should appoint voting delegate to attend SC meetings in their absence and provide delegate's contact information to Lani May
- SC should send recommendations for Underrepresented Student delegate to Lani May
  - a. Presentation
  - b. Discussion: Consider that "sustainability" has a wider definition—environmental and programmatic (sustains university functions)
- At various points during meeting, SC members discussed definition of "sustainability"
  - May & Rust suggested sustainability is not just environmental, but economic and social
  - Ratcliffe shared "3 Es of Sustainability" Venn diagram commonly used to define the term (an action is sustainable when it is
    - **environmentally** sound,
    - socially **equitable**, *and*
    - **economically** feasible



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