### Campus Tree Advisory Committee

### February 20, 2015

Present:

Morgan Johnston

Gary Kling

Stephanie Lage

Brent Lewis

Kevin McSweeney

Ryan Welch

Sonya Grindley (Minutes)

Absent: Mike Brunk

1. **Introductions**

Morgan Johnston, co-chair and Director of Sustainability, F&S thanked everyone for their time and participation. Introductions were as follows: Ryan Welch, co-chair and Superintendent of Grounds, F&S; Gary Kling, Associate Professor of Crop Sciences; Stephanie Lage, Assistant Director of iSEE; Brent Lewis, Landscape Architect, F&S and Kevin McSweeney, Director of Arboretum.

1. **Review of Charge Letter**

The Committee will work together to give input for completing the Tree Campus USA application process. The application is due by December 31, 2015. It was determined that one student is required on the Committee, but that perhaps it would be best to have two. Kevin McSweeney will look into student representation. Meetings will take place one time each month during the Spring and Fall (unless additional meeting is needed whereby it could be two meetings in one month, and on an as-needed basis in the Summer.

1. **Campus Tree Program with Dedicated Annual Expenditures**

Ryan Welch shared the F&S Budget for Trees. The budget has declined in the last few years. In previous years, the Tree Surgeons were always accompanied by a grounds worker. For the past few years, grounds workers occasionally accompany a Tree Surgeon. Ryan reported that we have two full time Arborists on staff to work on campus trees. Parking and Housing fund F&S to maintain trees for them. Commemorative trees are occasionally donated. There are times that Departments will purchase a tree to be planted by F&S. Ryan allocates $200,000/year for tree maintenance. The following additional budgets will be reported to the Committee: DIA & Campus Rec-Ryan Welch; ACES-Stephanie Lage and Morgan Johnston; Arboretum-Kevin McSweeney and New Construction-Brent Lewis and Morgan Johnston.

1. **Arbor Day Observance Event**

Morgan Johnston reported on information from Mike Brunk (absent) regarding the History of Arbor Day Observance in Urbana. They actually call it bird and tree day. Urbana and the Park District work together. The Mayor reads a proclamation, they invite particular schools and pre-plant the tress (in the parks). There are mulch piles which allow the children to mulch the trees. They talk about the eco benefits of trees with a barrel of water and a five-gallon bucket and a milk jug. The event is facilitated by Urbana and could incorporate the University of Illinois into the observance. Historically, there has not been an event on campus to observe Arbor Day. The Committee discussed holding a campus event by planting a Honey Locust tree on the quad. iSEE may be able to help support monetarily. Stephanie Lage will look into funding and she and Morgan would plan an event around the planting of the tree. Arbor Day is April 24, 2015. Kevin McSweeney also shared that 2015 is the International Year of the Soil.

1. **Service Learning Project Ideas**

Gary Kling reported that he has 5 students doing a GPS project at the Arboretum. There will be a campus-wide student project showcase in April, 2015. Morgan Johnston asked if the students would be able to give a report to the Campus Tree Advisory Committee.

1. **Other Business**

No report

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, March 13, 2015, 9:00-10:00 a.m. in Room 127 PPSB.