

## Sustainability Council Notes, 5/10/23

**Present:** Chancellor Jones, Madhu Khanna, Ehab Kamarah, William Bernhard, Susan Martinis, Venetria Patton, Chrystalla Mouza, Lowa Mwilambwe, Tim Knox, Brian Bundren, Jack Reicherts, Owen Jennings

**Ex officio/Invited:** Jennifer Fraterrigo, Morgan White, Luis Rodriguez, Elizabeth Murphy, Eric Green, Geri Melchiorre, Anita Million

### 1) Zero waste

- Partnership with athletics
  - Concerns about amount of waste left at the seats
    - Suggest that sustainability/recycling messaging be incorporated into announcements during athletic events
  - Conflicting messaging about ability to bring water into events
    - Reusable bottles must be clear and empty
    - Athletics has discussed clearing up messaging; the emphasis in the current signs was the clear bag policy
    - Tim Knox has experienced being turned away at a gate over water bottles and knows there is a communication issue
  - Work to engage athletic student organizations around the topic of sustainability
- Perception of tap water being less safe than bottled water
  - Put the information out to the student population that the quality of the tap water in C-U is as good or better than bottled
  - Message to students through Res Life, Greek orgs, ISG
- Should we think about the swag that is given out to the students? Encourage giving away clear bottles that could be taken into athletic events
  - Have a QR code on bottle or sticker explaining how it can be used

### 2) Energy planning

- Clean energy goals from F&S
- Use of University-owned land for renewable energy development
  - The interests of beneficiaries are put above the interest of UIUC
  - 3 types of leases
    - Crop share
    - Flexible rent lease
    - Cash rent
  - Need to keep in mind that some families have worked and lived on these rented farms for decades.
  - Management of these lands is complex and we have to keep in mind that communities are sensitive to our actions.
  - When looking for land for sustainable energy, we should consider our own assets before looking elsewhere.
  - Solar can be straightforward but wind requires more consideration.

- Could we create/use a map of areas suitable for wind power to screen our land holdings for where wind may be feasible?
  - F&S: could bring the consultant back who worked on solar farm 3.0 and integrate the UIUC owned lands into the feasibility study
- 3) Green Research Committee
- 4) Update on Sustainability General Education requirement
  - Provost appreciates emphasis on process and engaging the deans for their feedback and buy-in
- 5) White House Forum on Campus and Community-Scale Climate Change Solutions
  - a. Key ideas
  - b. Building capacity in the workforce
- 6) Student updates
  - a. SSC focused on promoting a culture of sustainability. UIUC has opportunity to be a leader. Would like to see Sustainability more central to UIUC strategic plan.