President’s Universitywide Sustainability Committee (PUSC)
Draft Minutes of September 18, 2014
Office for Sustainability (OfS)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Members: Francisco Cordero, Caroline Webber, Kelsey Patterson, Sarah Pratt, Paul Farber, Laura Hastings, Denise Keel, Timothy Palmer, Marcial Pineda, Jamie Hirsh, Andrew Targowski, Kate Binder, Jorge Rodriguez, Felix Esquibel, Lu DeBoef, Bill Davis, Jeff Spoelstra, Kahler Schuemann, Derek Kanwischer

Guests: Jody Brylinsky, Andrea Ayotte, Sean Hegarty, Nicolette Ledbury, Kelsey Pitschel,

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

March 2014 minutes motion for approval by Spoelstra and seconded by Pancella. The minutes were approved.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

September 18, 2014 draft agenda motion for approval by Spoelstra and seconded by Pancella. The agenda was approved.

UPDATES

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS
WMU won the 2014 Second Nature Climate Leadership Award. Our associated video garnered the highest number of votes in a public voting competition.

WMU’s first Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) report was submitted, earning us a “gold” rating.

The “Transport Evolved” blog ranked Western Michigan University as being in the top 5 campuses with an extensive electric vehicle (EV) charging network. We placed among other schools in the top five like UC Davis, and we placed ahead of MIT.

HIGHLIGHTS AND REMINDERS

Acting chair of the committee, Paul Pancella, announced that Harold Glasser (currently on a one-year sabbatical) will be presented with a Distinguished Service Award at the next academic convocation on Oct 10, 2014.

PUSC meetings of the whole committee are now scheduled four times per year on the third Thursday of September, November, January, and March.

Jeff shared highlights WMU’s sustainability website for the benefit of new PUSC members and guests. The website includes information on all sustainability initiatives. PUSC meetings dating back to 2008 are available at
Members were encouraged to share and use the campus sustainability features map, review recently published reports and white papers, help promote the current round of Student Sustainability Grants (due Nov. 20), and were reminded of the upcoming, annual Student Sustainability Survey/Literacy Assessment conducted by the OIS each Spring. Jeff indicated that a student team is reviewing current results and preparing a poster presentation for an upcoming meeting. The presentation will be added to the sustainability website.

Members were updated on growing interest for a Sustainable Campus Café most recently suggested for the empty Campus Trends space in the Bernhard Center. A WSA resolution was passed in support of the idea last year. Contact Derek if interested.

A new pilot bike rental program, BroncoBikes, will be running as of September 22nd. Doug Ladner of the OIS organized the project.

WMU applied for certification as a Bike Friendly University from the American League of Bicyclists. WSA passed a resolution supporting this action last year. Results and feedback are expected soon.

Events related to a community effort to redesign the Stadium Drive corridor were promoted (Sept. 30-Oct. 2). Participation was encouraged. This is a rare opportunity to influence the safe connection of WMU and K College to the downtown Kalamazoo area for the benefit of all transportation users.

The Sustainability Leadership Summit took place in the Spring 2014. There is a highlight video on the OIS Youtube page.

Judy Wicks, author of *Good Morning Beautiful Business*, is our featured guest for National Campus Sustainability Day, which WMU is celebrating on two days - October 16 and 17. Further information will be sent out via email and available on the OIS website.

A Fall Harvest Festival will take place at the Gibb’s House property on October 24 from 4pm-8pm. Activities will include a cider press, earthen cob oven, music by local swing dance band, and a potluck-style food meal.

**DISCUSSION**

Discussion took place about a possible Spring 2015 event. Kristin Shrader-Frechette, from Notre Dame, was suggested as a speaker to invite to our campus. She is an author of a book about addressing climate change with renewable energy and not nuclear power. Members expressed interest in this opportunity. It could fit well and/or complement activities already planned by the Lee Honor’s College for a lecture series on energy topics. Jeff will follow up with Denise.

The OIS is considering an alternate Spring event - a faculty meeting/luncheon to foster and advance various curriculum related opportunities (a follow-on to the StART Luncheon series).

Bill Davis announced that photographer Garth Lenz is coming November 20th for a lecture (5:30-6:30 pm), art competition (following the lecture) and a workshop hosted by the Frostic School of Art and ENVS. A juried show, opening after the lecture, has submissions due Oct. 15. Information and an entry form can be found on OIS homepage.

Dr. Energy Savers, a company out of Lansing, may be offering discount or free energy audits for WMU employees. Ask Paul for details. The PUSC, or a subcommittee, might be the most appropriate body to follow up on this opportunity.

**SUBCOMMITTEES**

Jeff moved the discussion to subcommittees beginning with a **Climate Action Planning subcommittee** (CAP). The co-chairs are already identified as Pancela and Caprara. Both worked on the 2012 Climate Action Plan, which commits WMU to climate neutrality by 2065. Documents were suggested for review by this subcommittee including GHG inventories, transportation surveys, and a new Facilities Management Energy Reduction Strategic Plan. The subcommittee has met once and brainstormed actions and membership. This committee does not need to meet very frequently, but does need to start this long-term, multi-decade steering process.
The second subcommittee, which is in the planning stages, is a **Sustainability Across Research & Teaching (StART) subcommittee**. Its purpose is to help faculty infuse sustainability into existing courses, create brand new courses and programs, and help advance research on campus for sustainability. Documents and efforts suggested for use by this subcommittee include a faculty survey, faculty learning community, WMU Discovery Experts database, core competencies research, learning outcome research. Denise serves on the COGE. Sustainability will likely be one of several areas in a new general education program in development now. The OIS can offer this subcommittee logistical support, a physical meeting space, and a graduate assistant with dedicated time. Paul noted that this subcommittee is focused on curriculum aspects of the sustainability mission of the university and should be populated and led by faculty.

Caroline recommended that it should be clear if faculty get to decide what the subcommittee does. Several others agreed. Bill noted that is will be critical for a significant number of subcommittee members to be active participants from all colleges and be willing to share sustainability efforts with colleagues and leaders in their areas. Bill referenced the foundational work of the faculty learning community. Paul suggested that all faculty on the PUSC should consider themselves candidates for this subcommittee. A course buyout may be available for the chair of this subcommittee (Provost support for a faculty sustainability fellow).

A **STARS subcommittee** will review our STARS Report submittal and identify new opportunities. A preliminary list of new initiatives and/or actions has been compiled by Andrea, the STARS Graduate Assistant and will be made available for this subcommittee to consider and update. The next STARS Report will be generated and submitted in approximately two years.

Caroline Webber asked whether faculty have access to sustainability interns to work on projects related to sustainability. Jeff suggested that the student sustainability grant supports project expenses for student teams with faculty/staff sponsors. Jeff will follow up with Caroline on other opportunities (e.g., connecting with current GA researchers in the OIS). Caroline suggested that the OIS clarify how priorities are set as they relate to student time on specific initiatives/projects.

Bill Davis asked how can the OIS can use the technology already available for data collection on all sustainability efforts around campus, related to campus reporting such as STARS and GHG emissions. Jeff indicated that this is a major task he is working on by mapping out annual availability of (and need for) campus sustainability assessment data. With a STARS report now completed, Jeff and Andrea now have a much better conceptual framework to build from for assessment that is relevant to policies and practices on this campus.

A motion was made to adjourn by Pancell and seconded by Spoelstra. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.