

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Christopher Tillquist, representative to the Sustainability Council

DATE: Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024

SUBJECT: Sustainability Council meeting held September 25, 2024

Much of the meeting was dedicated to hearing a report by Dr. Aruni Bhatnagar, Director of the Christina Lee Browne Envirome Institute on the Green Heart Project, a long-term, and well-funded research project that has been exploring the relationship between green spaces and human health. Over the past several years, the project has planted trees and shrubs in low-canopy neighborhoods such as Wyandotte in South Louisville and then tracked the health effects of the green space intervention on such biometrics as blood pressure, lipid profiles, obesity and diabetes, and cardiovascular disease risk. Preliminary results demonstrate a significant positive effect of green space on health as assessed!

In the area of Operations, Facilities Management has a new focus on improving indoor air quality, with large HVAC projects happening in many buildings across campus. Grounds team has been tasked with adding more shrubs and trees throughout campus.